



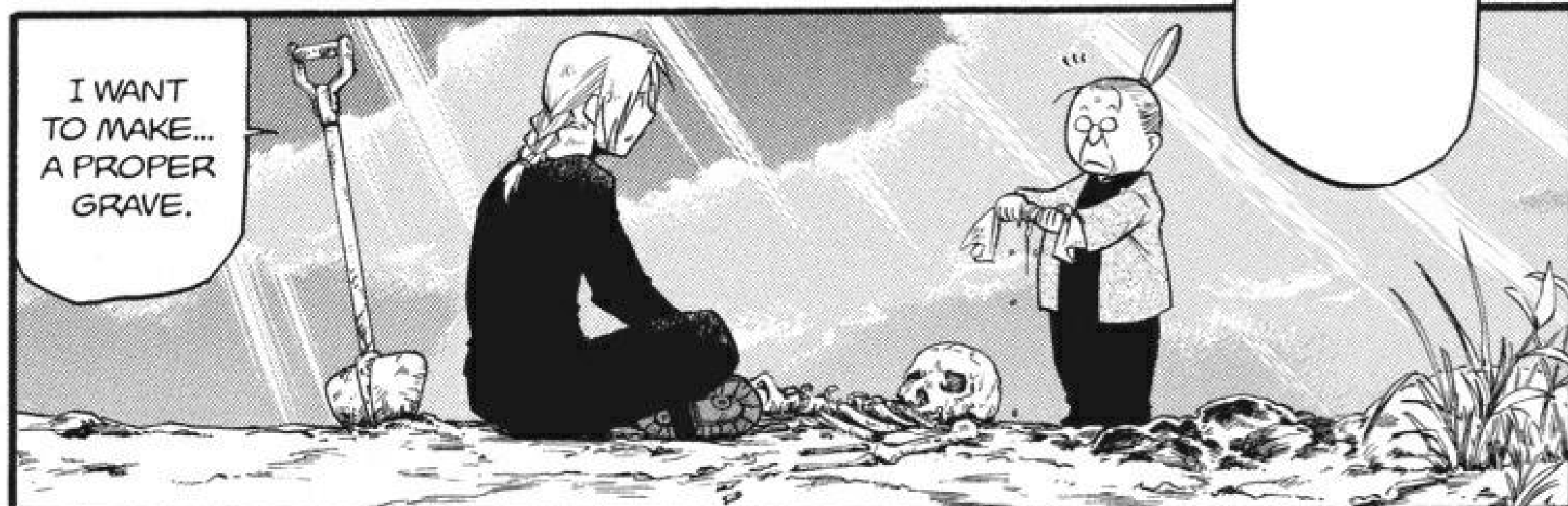
Chapter 44

The Unnamed Grave





HEY,
GRANNY...



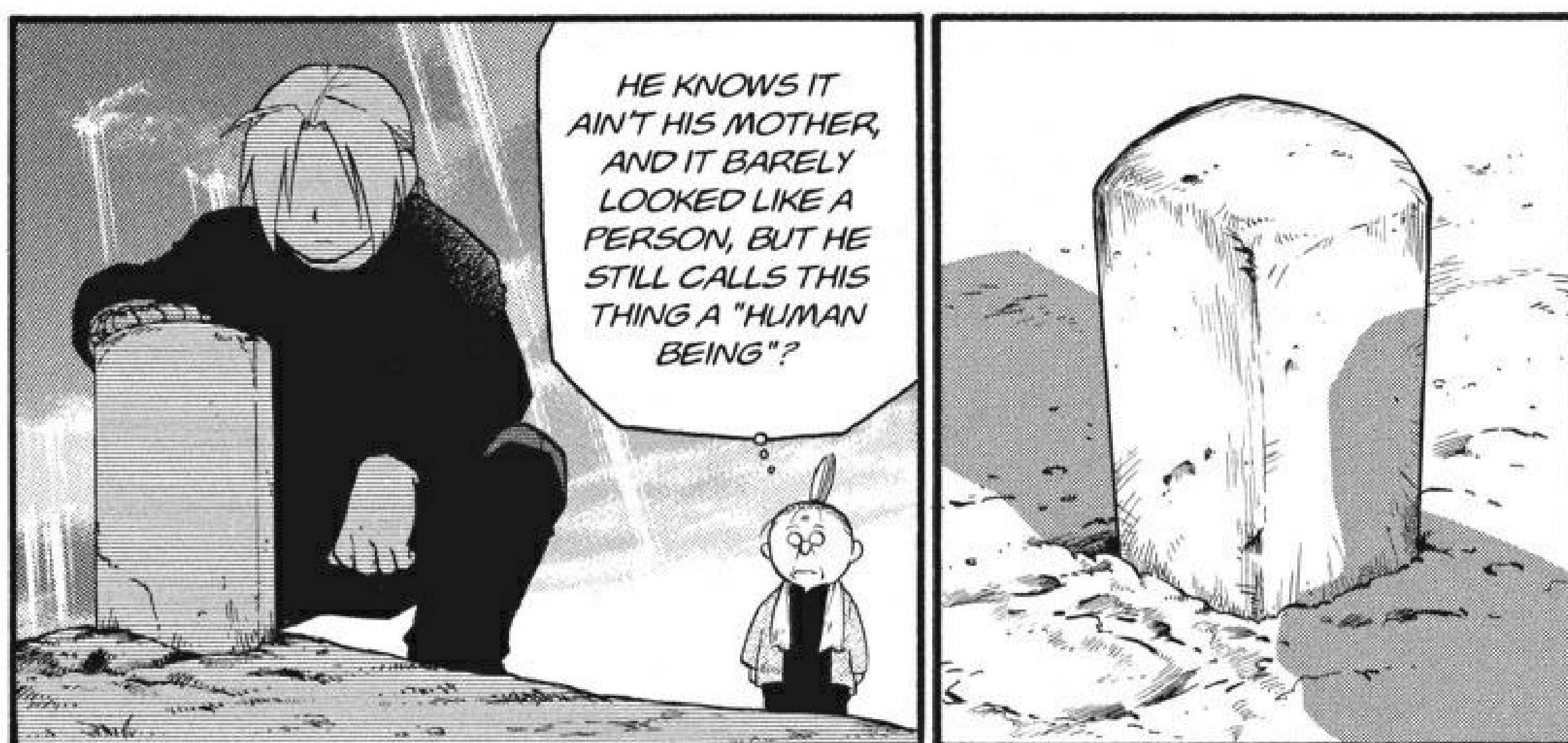
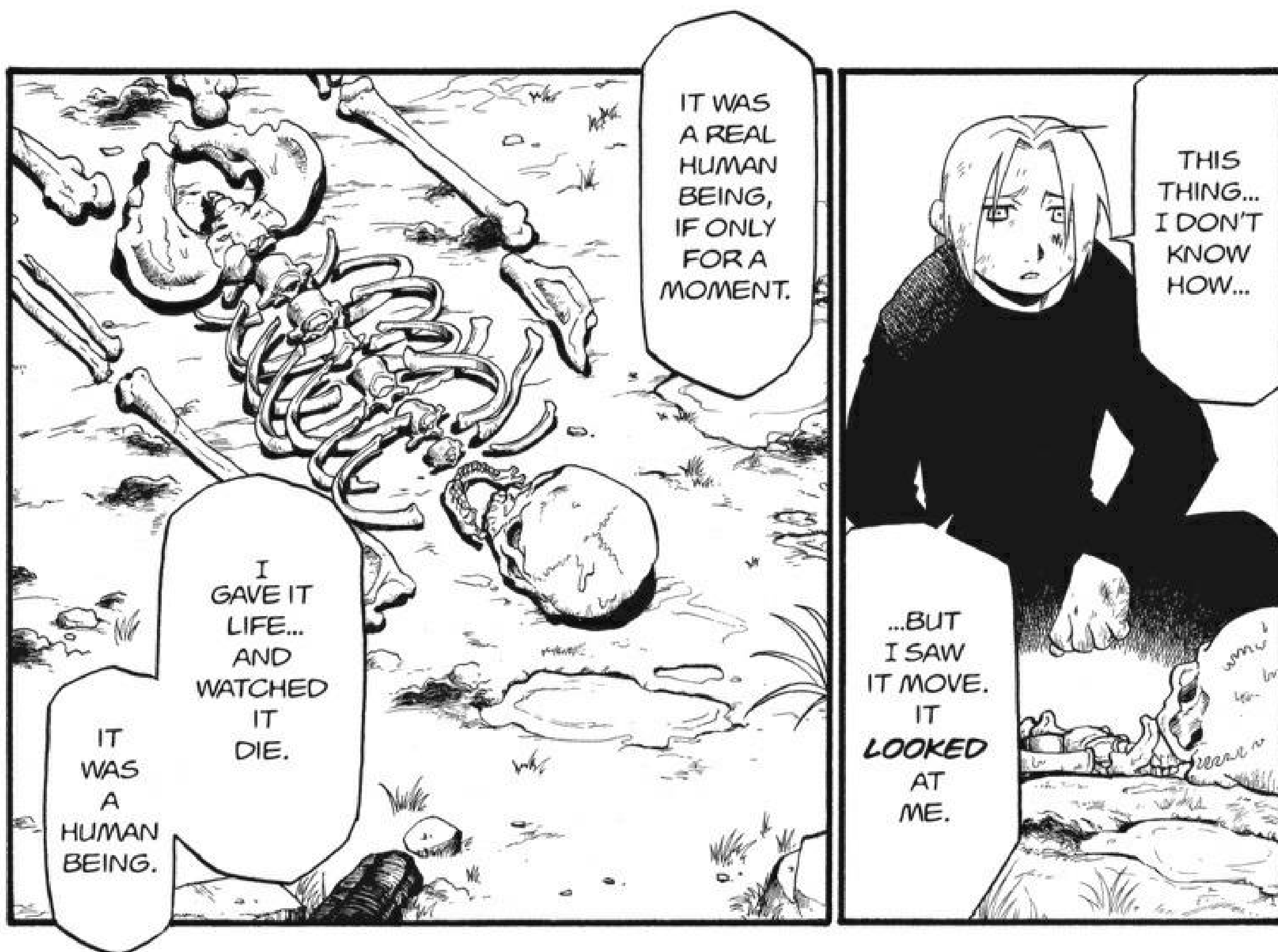
I WANT
TO MAKE...
A PROPER
GRAVE.

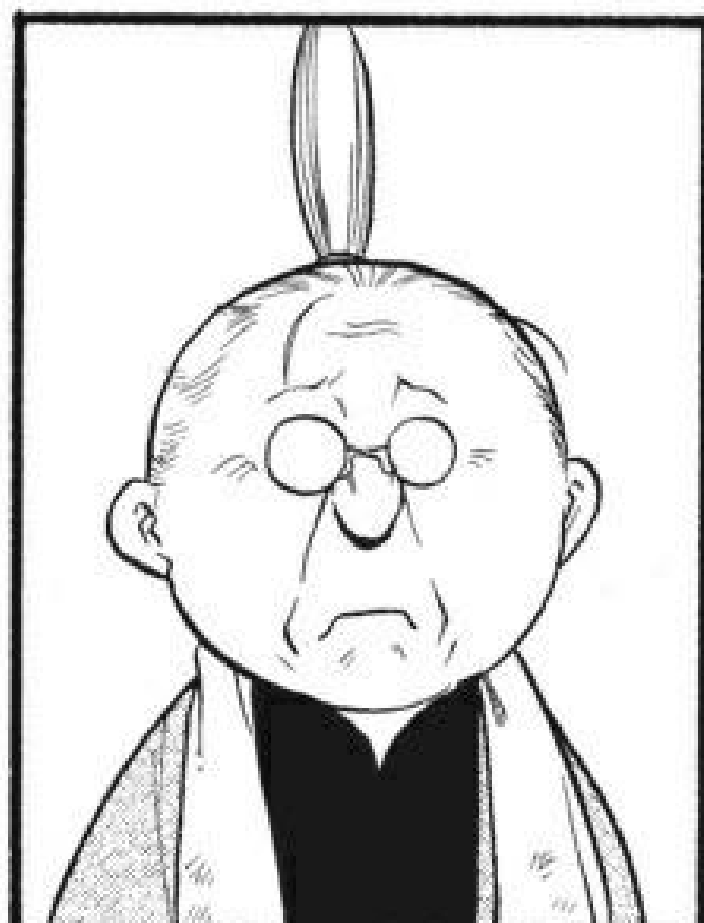


...I
DON'T
KNOW.



WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO PUT
ON THE
GRAVE-
STONE?





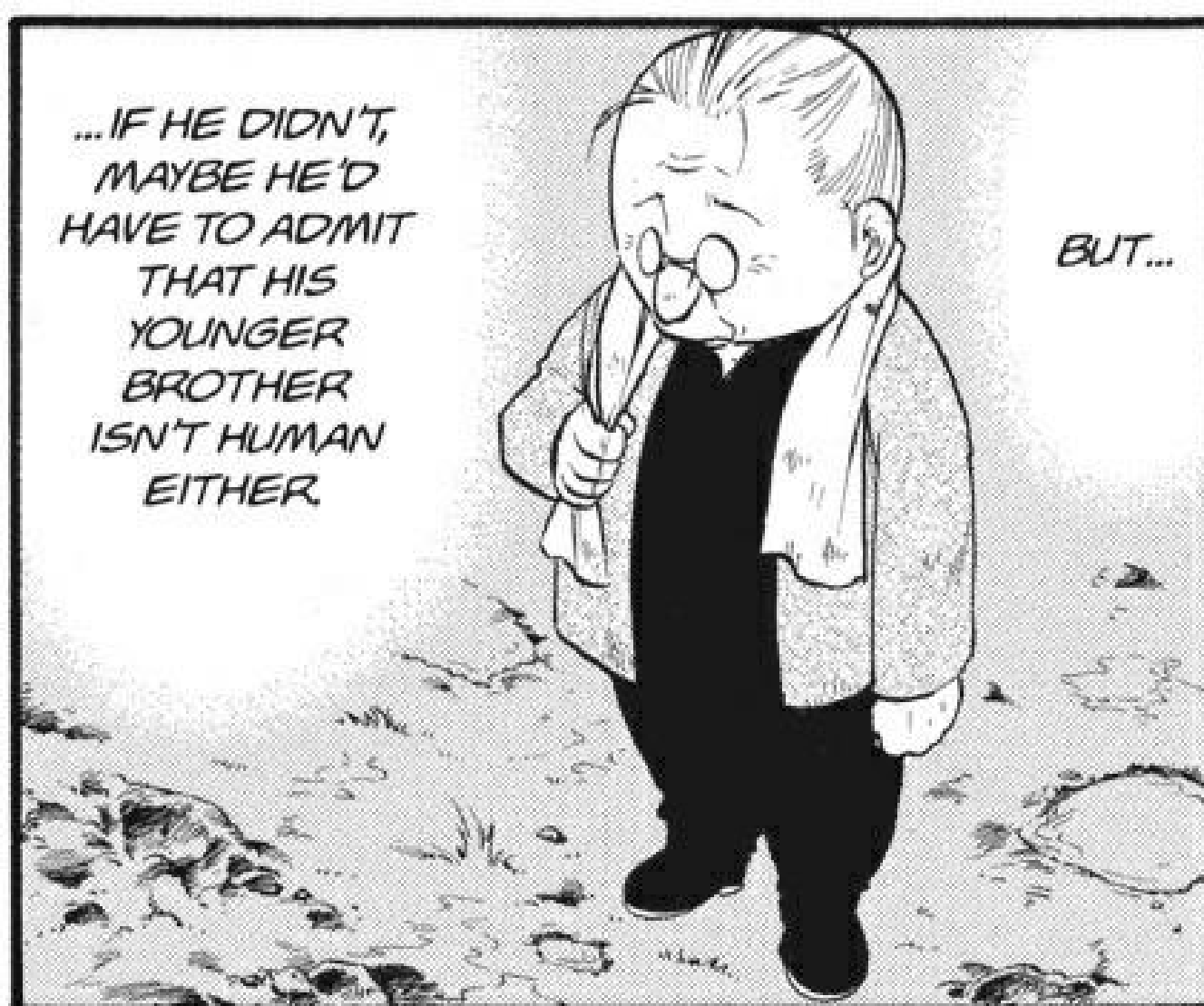
THE
BOY'S
USING
THE
TERM
TOO
LOOSELY.

000



THAT'S
RIGHT...
AL

ED, I
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
THINKING.
IF THIS
ISN'T TRISHA,
THEN...



...IF HE DIDN'T,
MAYBE HE'D
HAVE TO ADMIT
THAT HIS
YOUNGER
BROTHER
ISN'T HUMAN
EITHER

BUT...



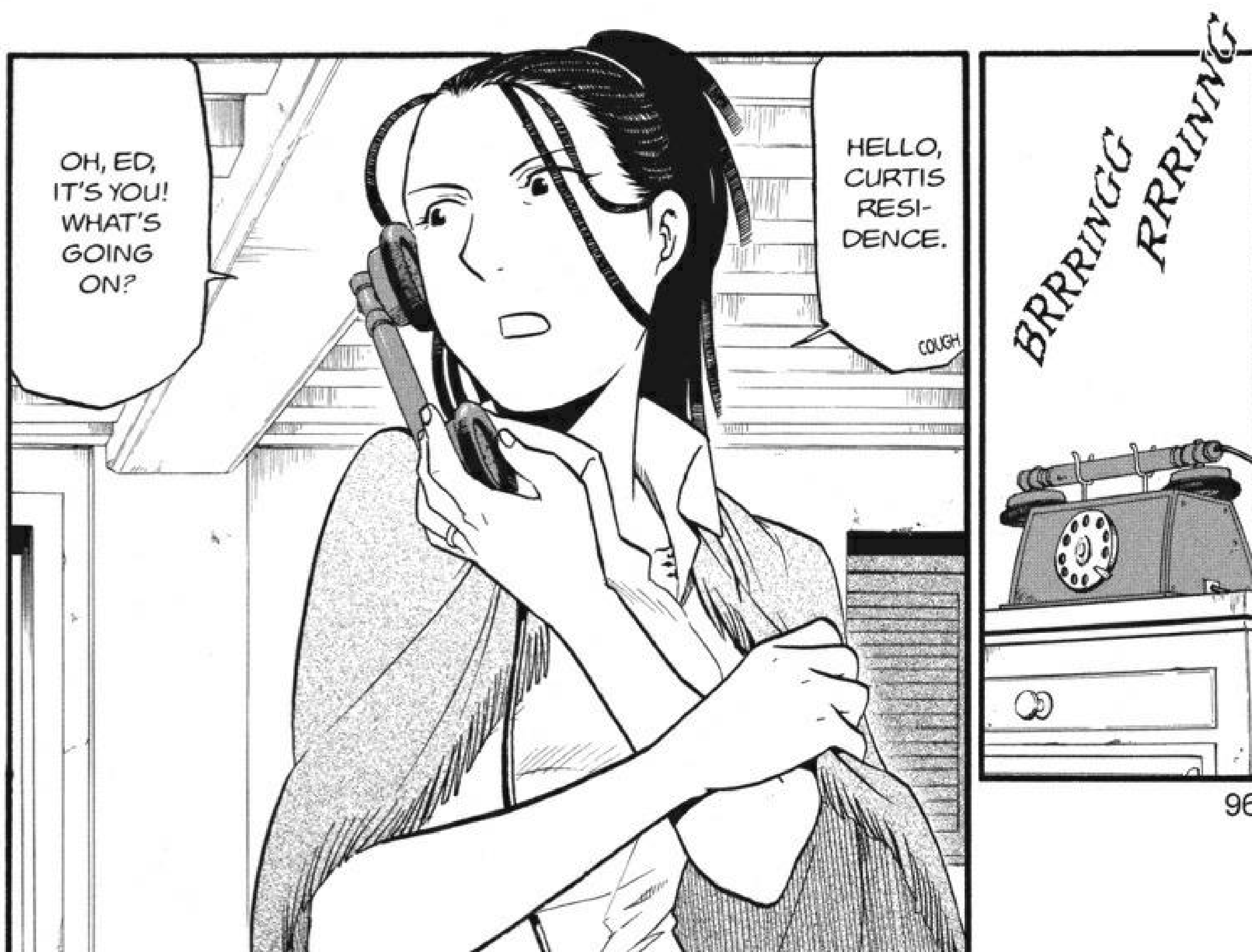
IF HUMAN
TRANSMUTATION
IS IMPOSSIBLE,
THEN WHAT ABOUT
THE SOUL THAT YOU
TRANSMUTED
FOR AL?

THEN
AL
IS...



THERE
ARE STILL
A LOT OF
THINGS I
NEED TO
CHECK
ON.

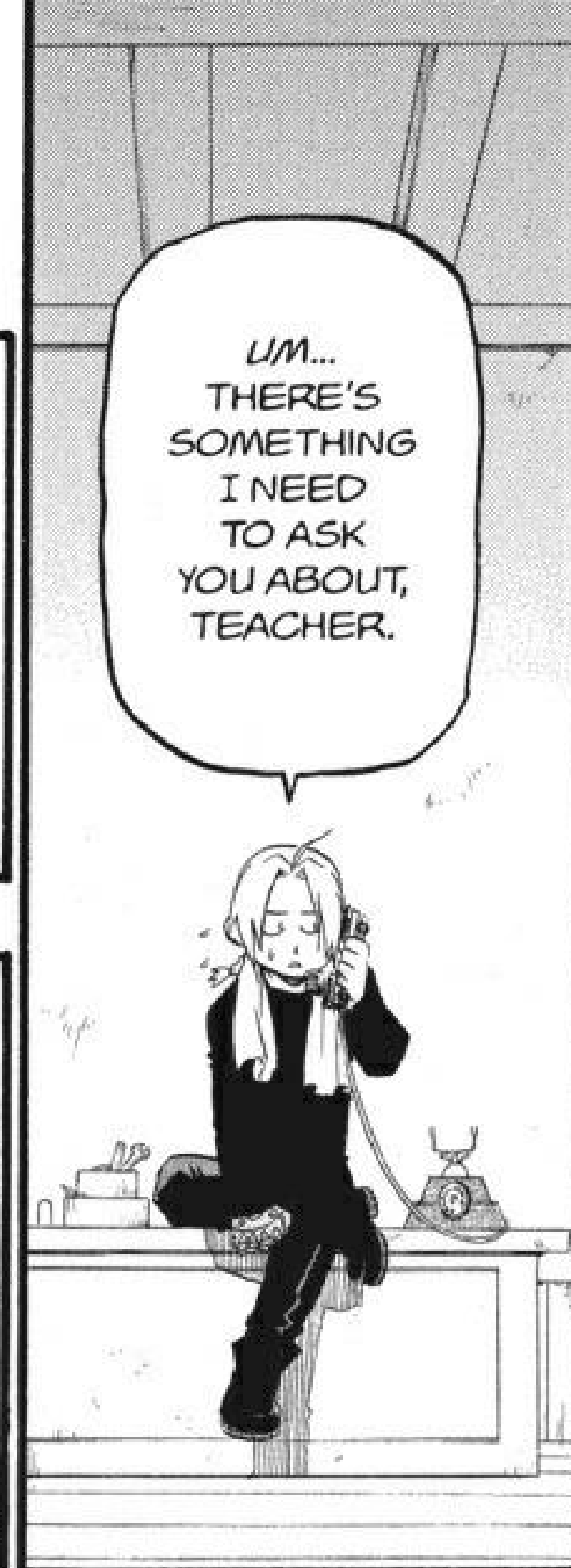
UH-
HUH.





...SO
IF YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
ANSWER,
PLEASE
JUST HANG
UP THE
PHONE.

THIS QUESTION
MIGHT OFFEND
YOU AND ANSWERING
IT MIGHT DESTROY
SOMETHING VERY
DEAR TO YOU...



UM...
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I NEED
TO ASK
YOU ABOUT,
TEACHER.



WHAT
IS IT?
JUST
TELL
ME.

YOU CAN EVEN
CUT ALL TIES
WITH ME AS YOUR
APPRENTICE...
ACTUALLY, YOU
ALREADY
EXPELLED ME,
DIDN'T YOU?



TEACHER,
DO YOU
REMEMBER
ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
TIME YOU
TRIED TO
TRANSMUTE
YOUR
CHILD?



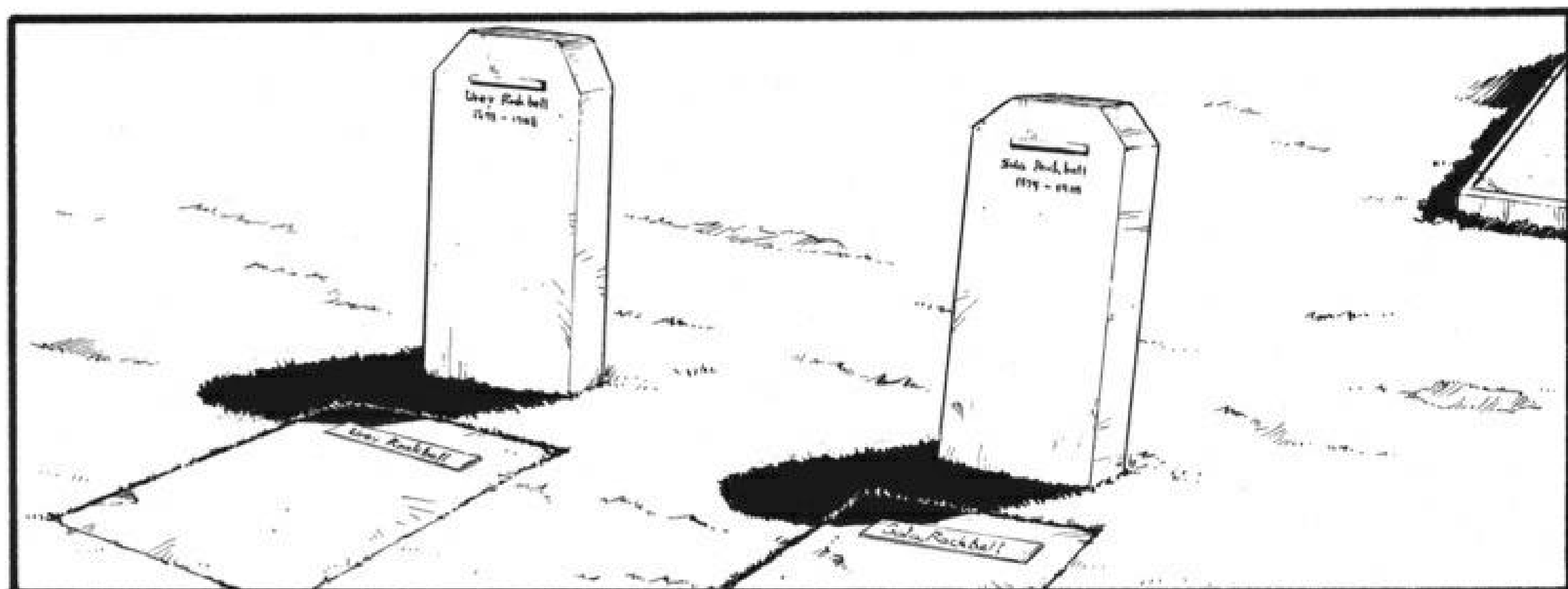
WHAT
ABOUT
IT?

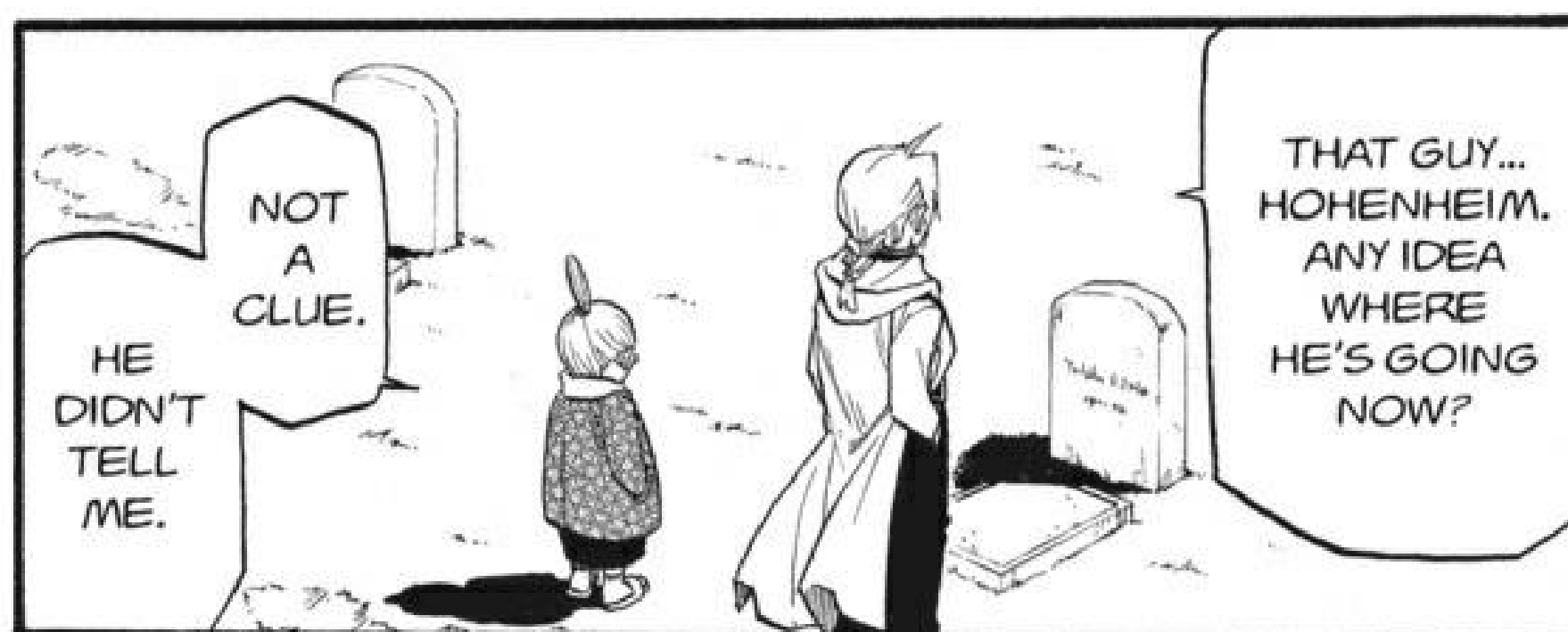
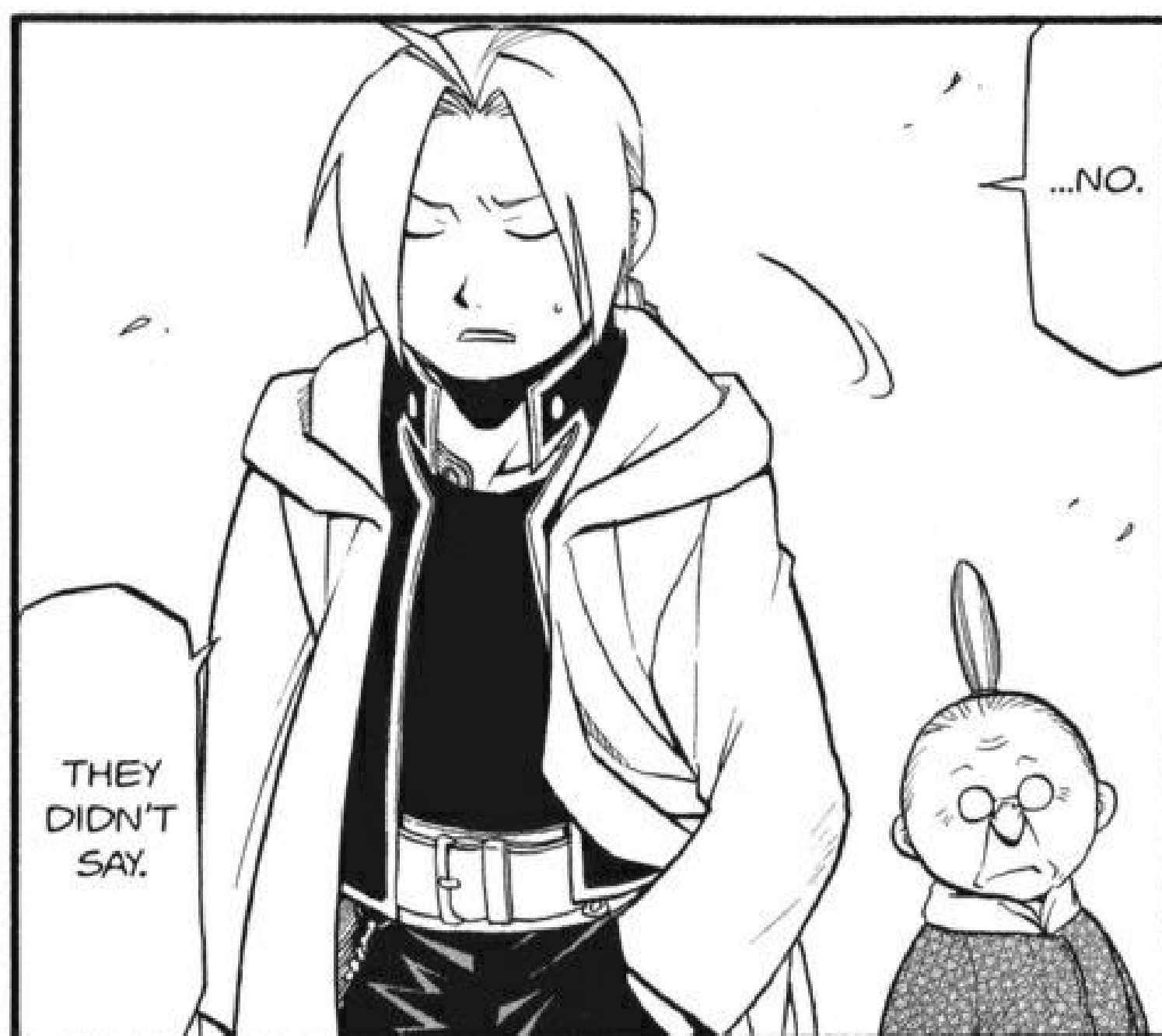
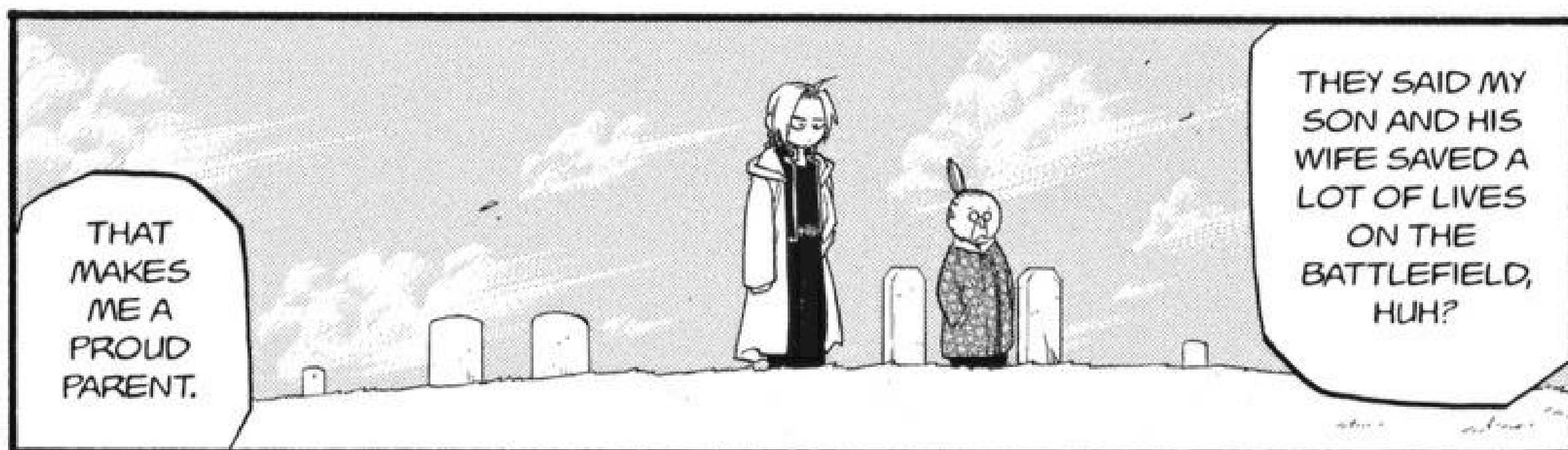
HOW
COULD
I
EVER
FORGET
THAT
!?!

HOW
COULD
I
FORGET
?

...UH-
HUH.







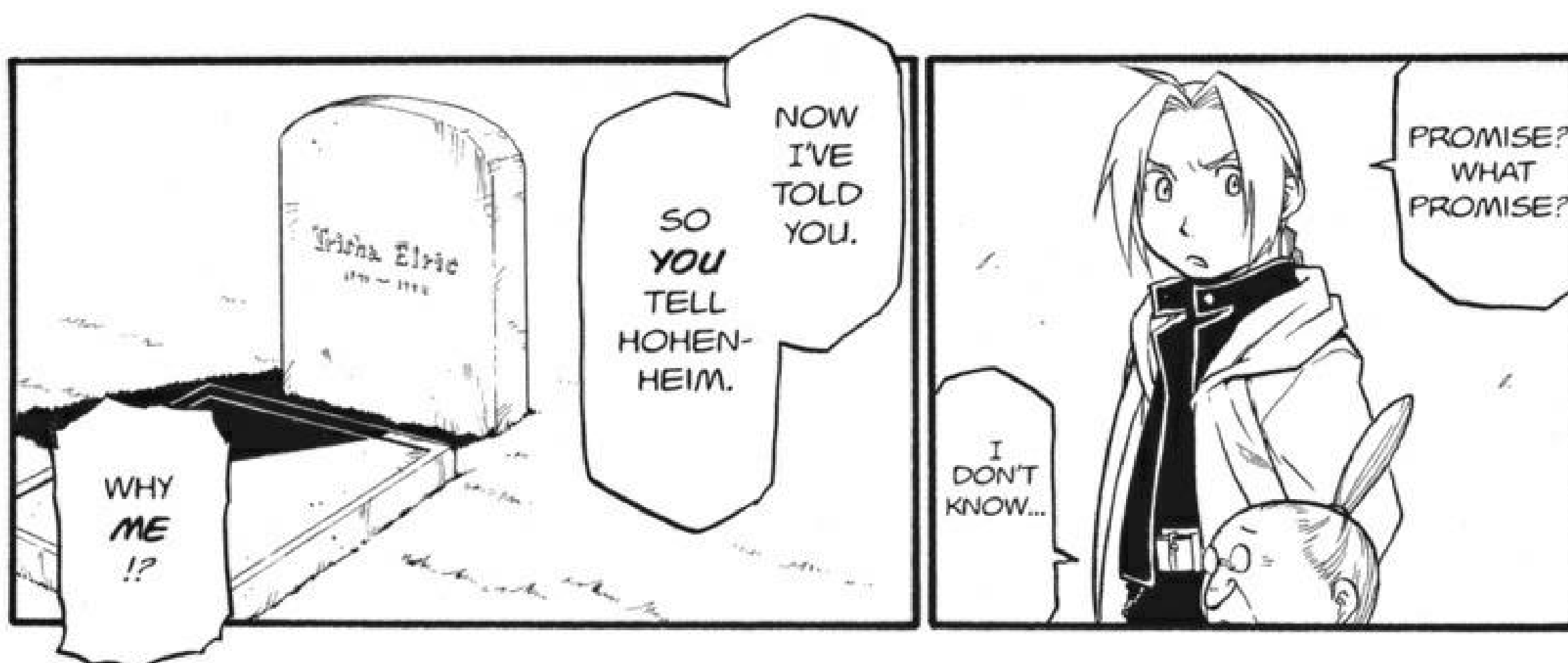
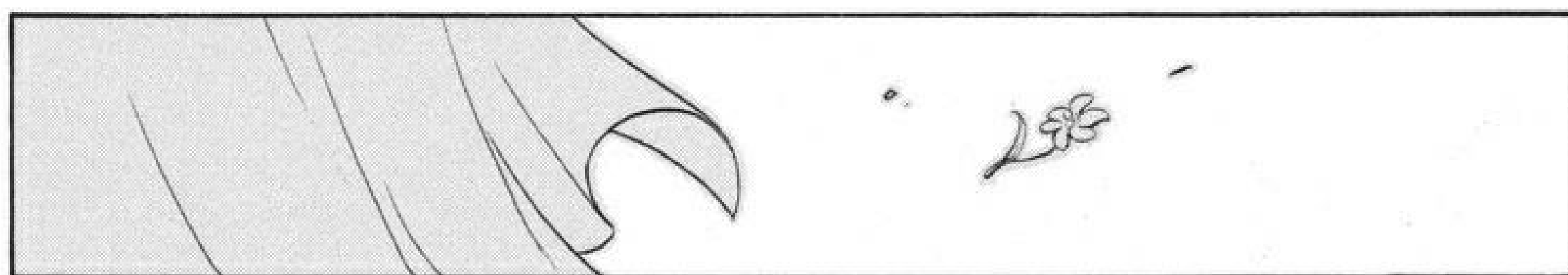




THAT
I'M
SORRY!

AND
PLEASE
TELL
HIM...

I'LL
BE
PASSING
ON
BEFORE
HIM.



WHY
ME
!?

SO
YOU
TELL
HOHEN-
HEIM.

NOW
I'VE
TOLD
YOU.

PROMISE?
WHAT
PROMISE?

I
DON'T
KNOW...



HE
JUST
DOESN'T

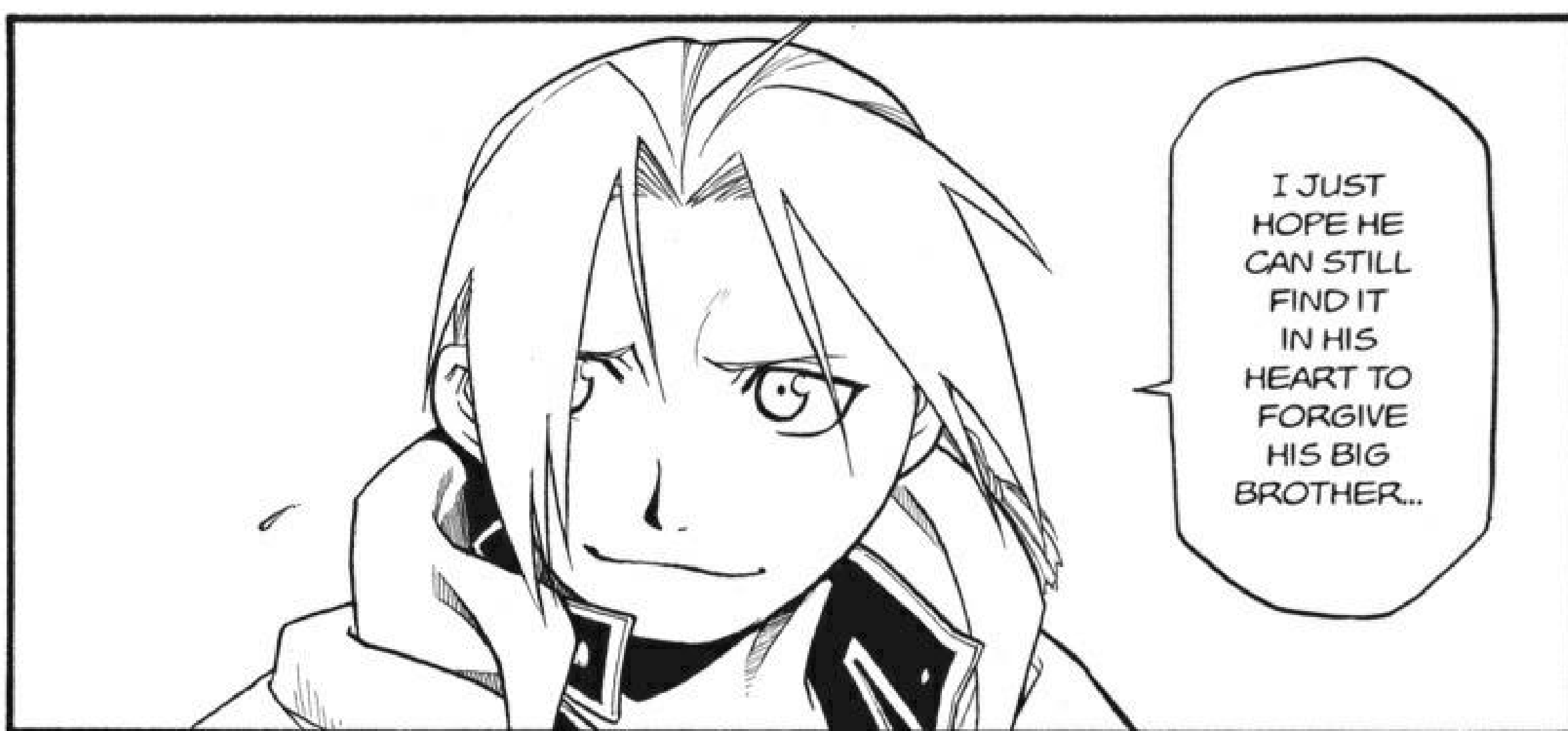
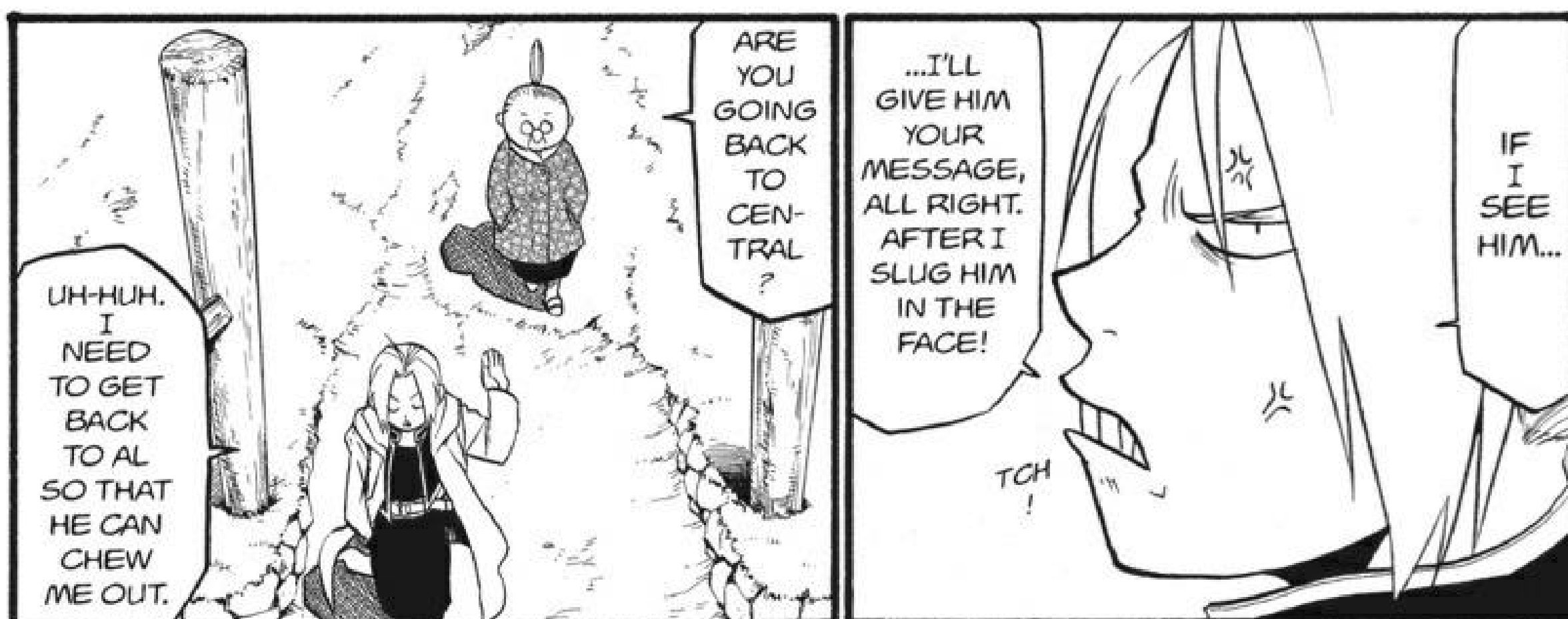
TO
BE A
PARENT,
THAT'S
ALL!

FEH
!

HE SAID
THAT HE
COULDN'T
DO
ANYTHING
FOR YOU
AS A
PARENT.

THE NIGHT
THAT HE
CAME BACK,
HE BOWED
HIS HEAD AND
APOLOGIZED
TO ME FOR
NOT COMING
BACK FOR
YOU BOYS.

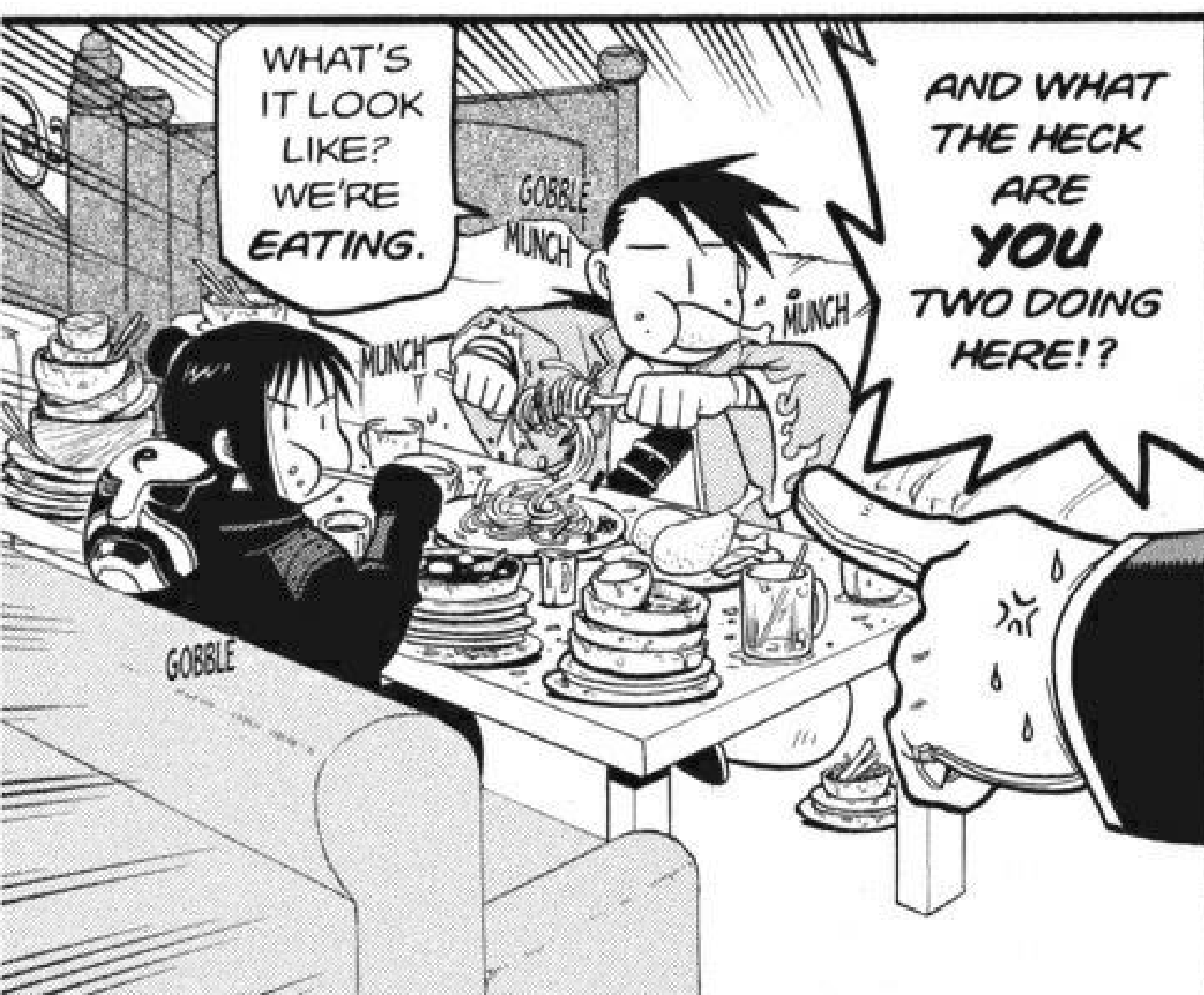
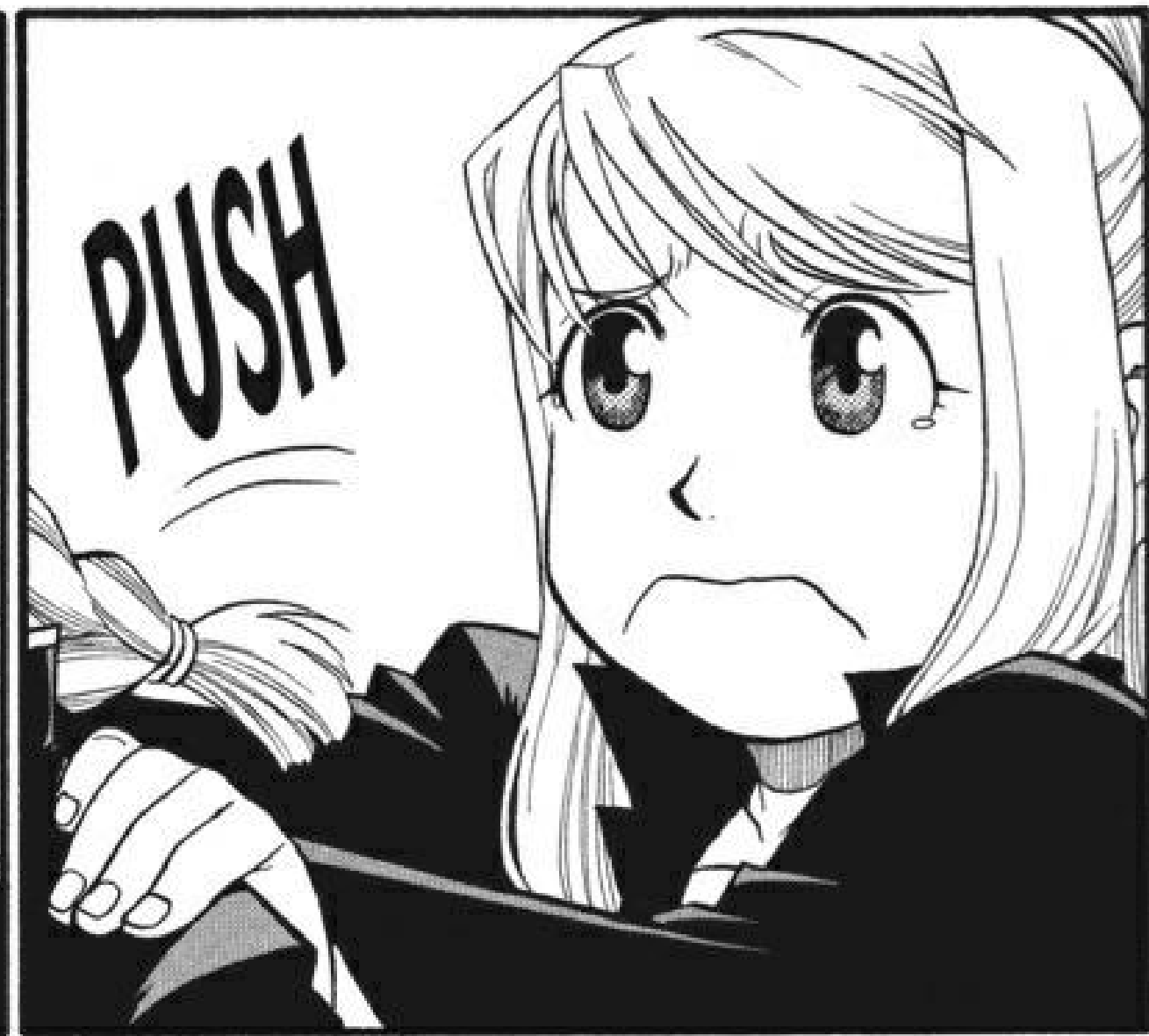
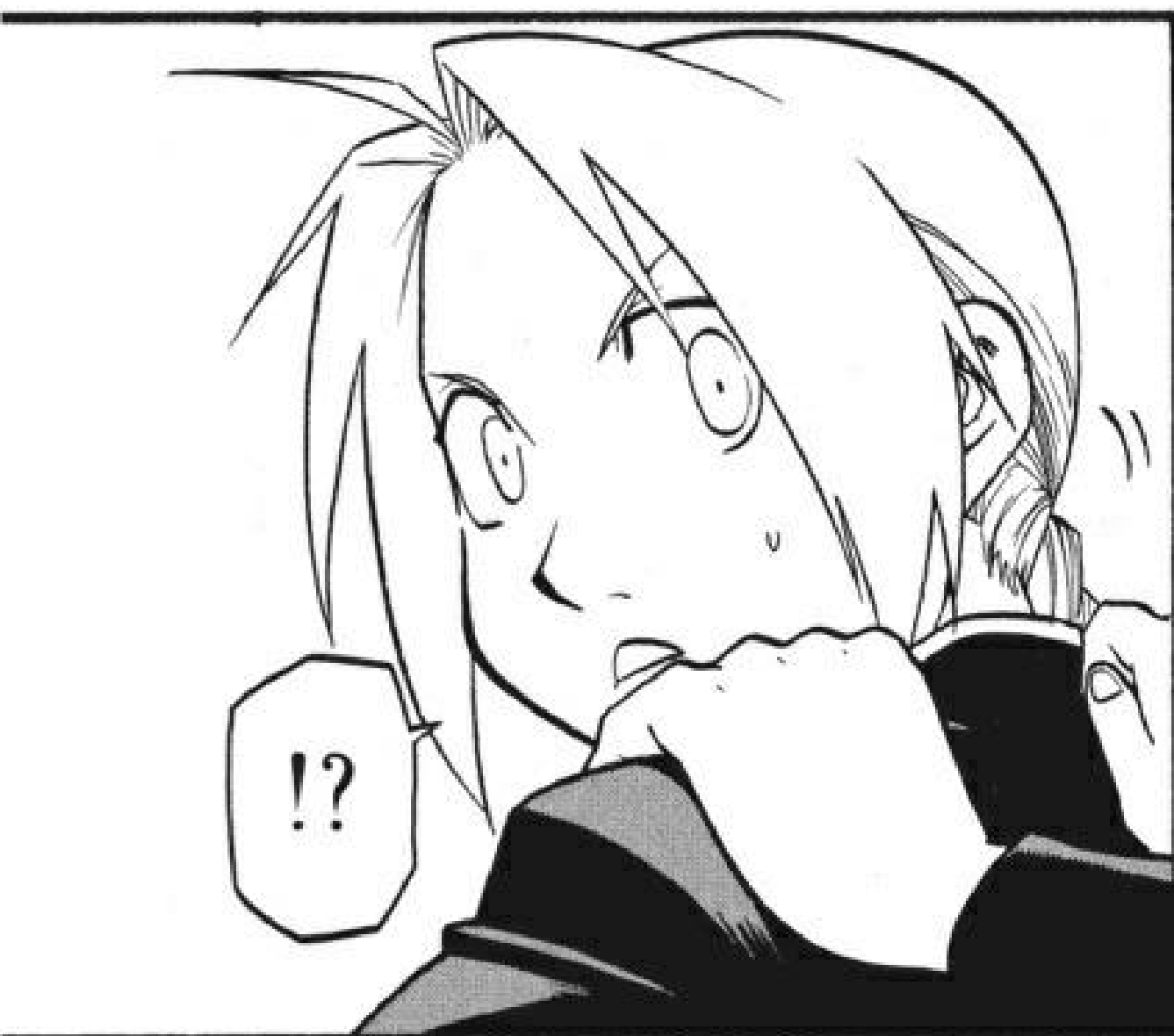
HE MIGHT
BE
USELESS
BUT HE'S
STILL YOUR
FATHER.

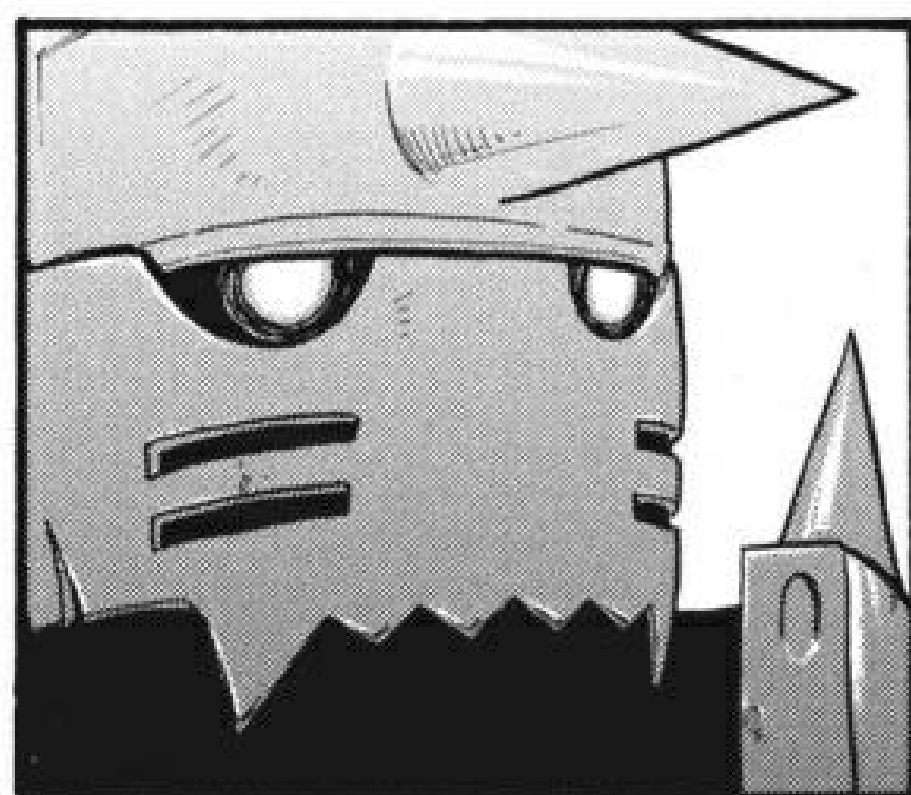


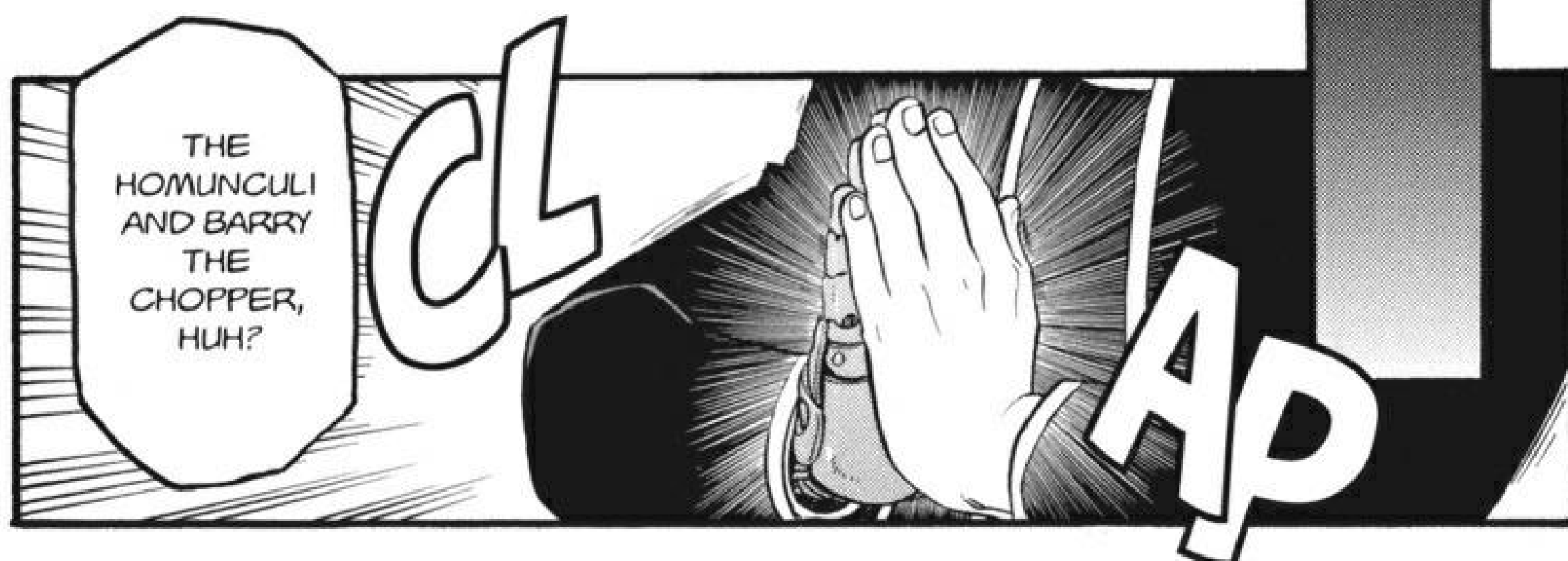


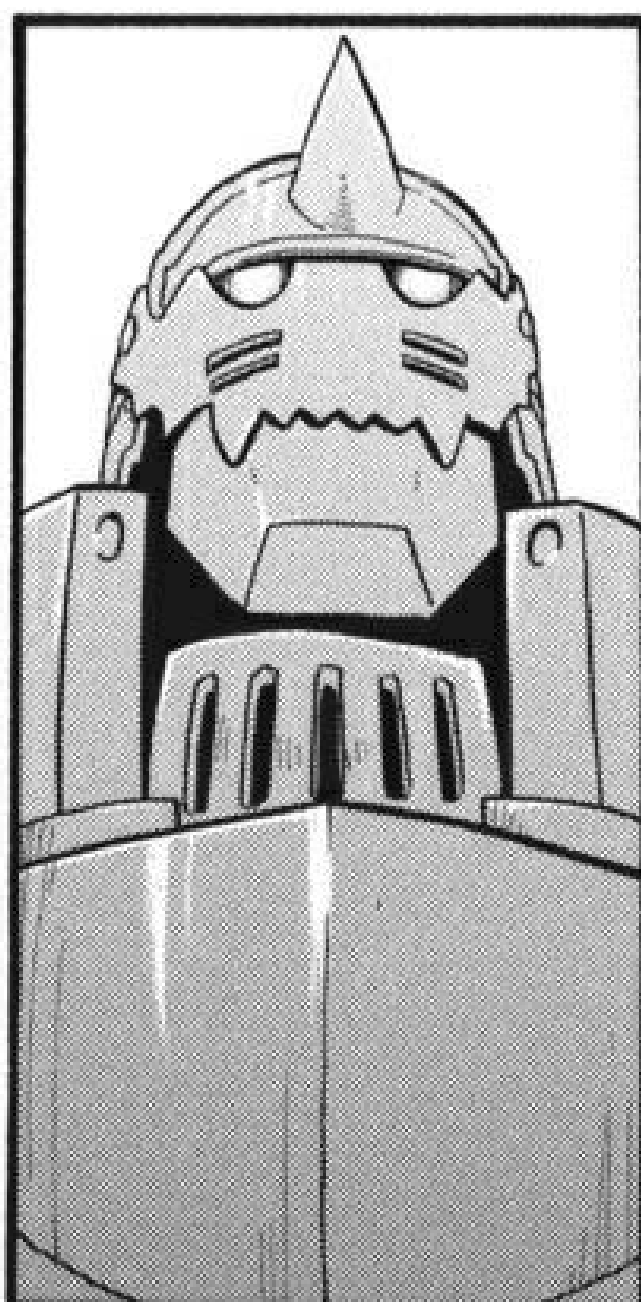
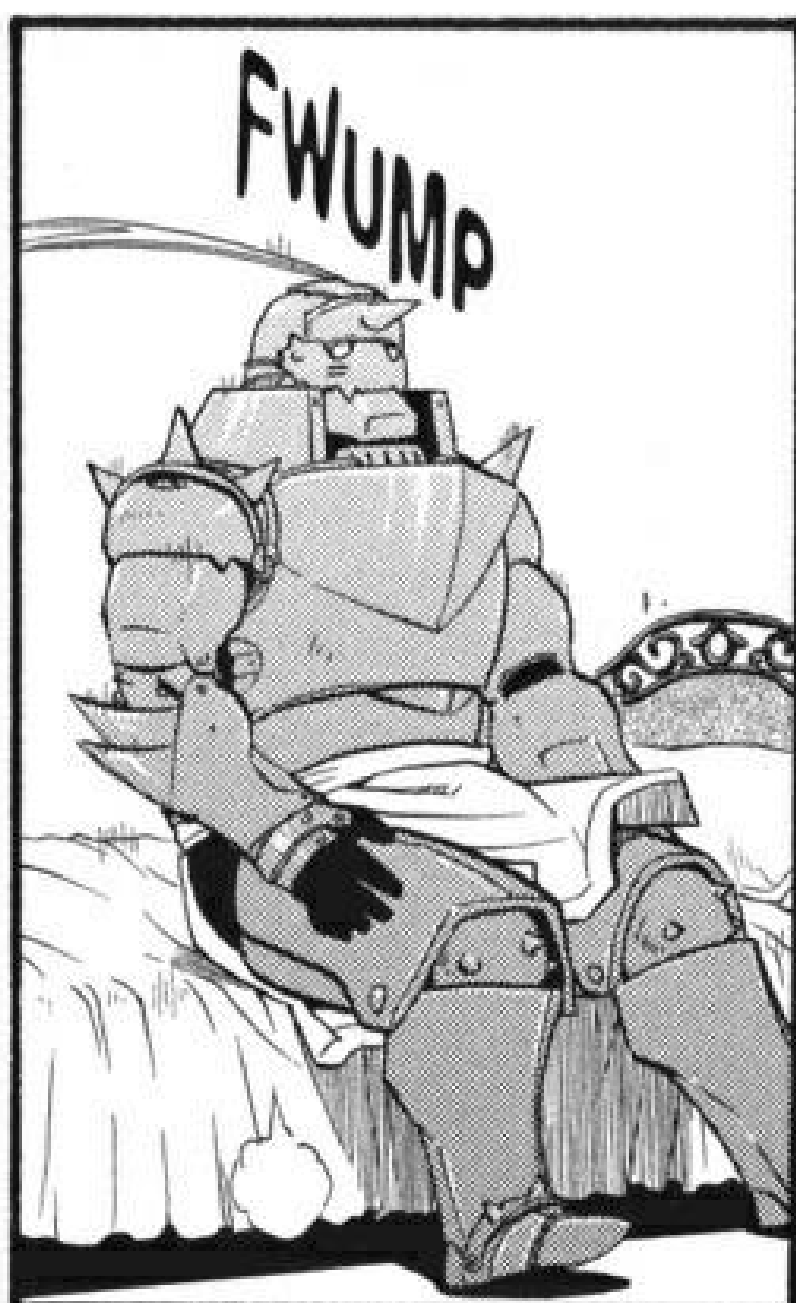
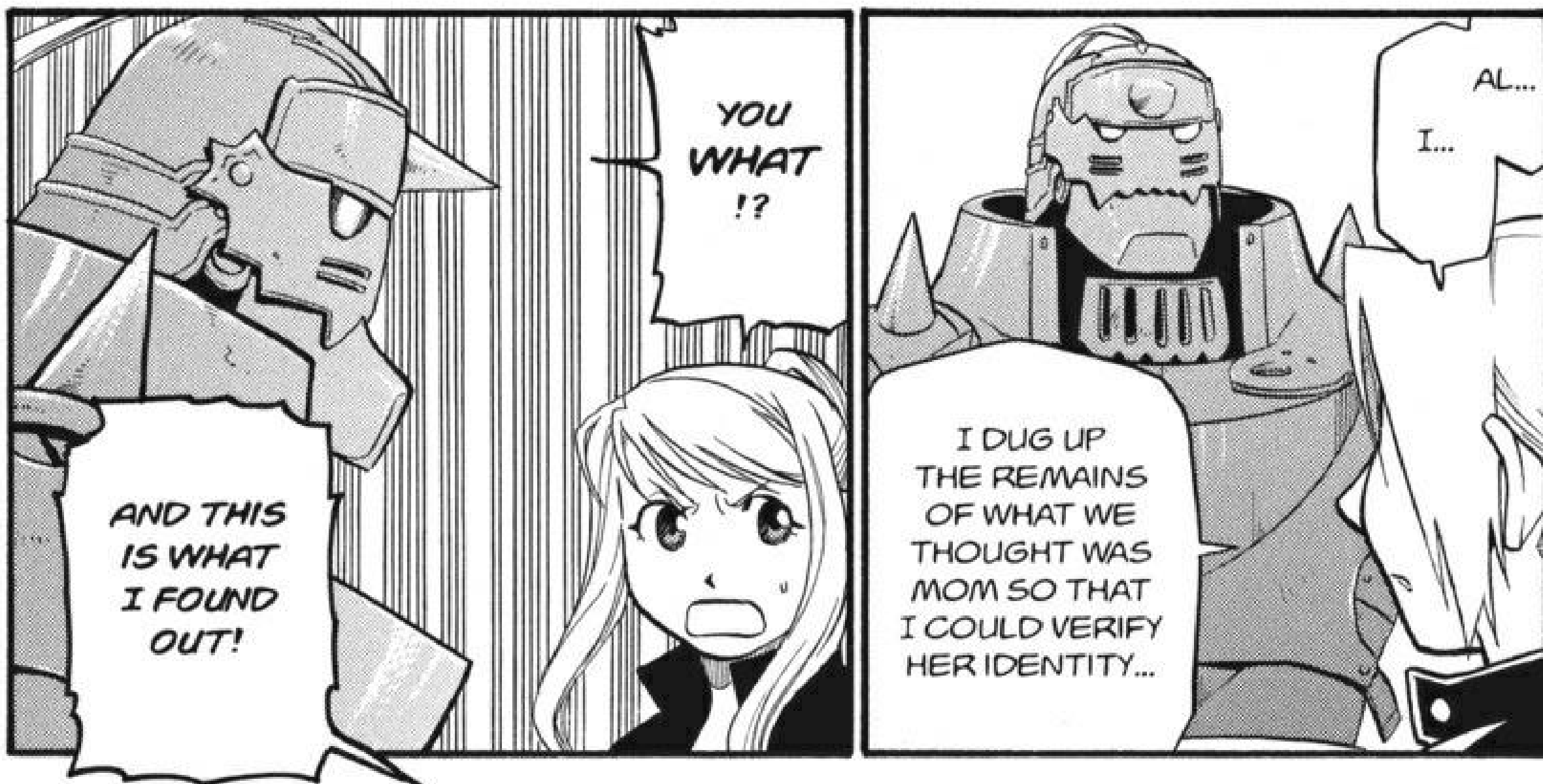
KA-KLACK











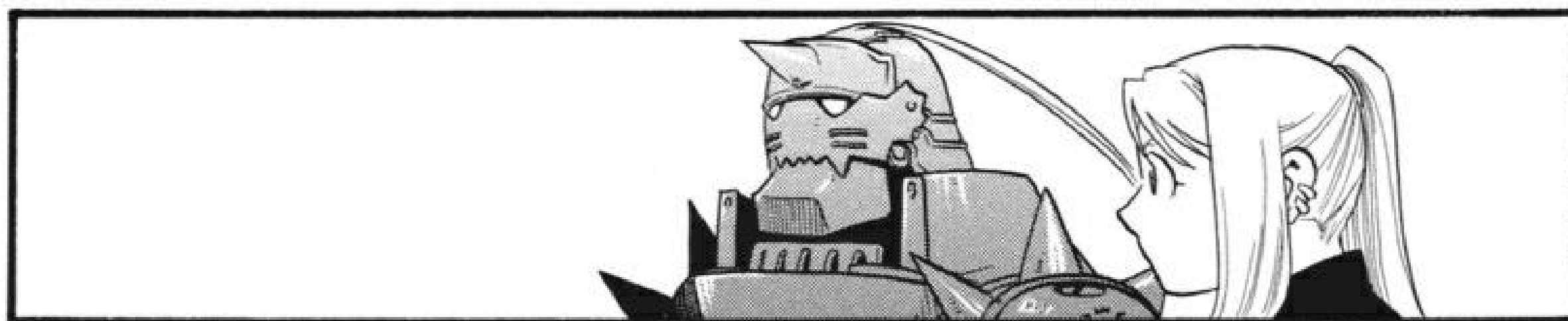


I'M
CONVINCED
THAT YOU
CAN BE
RETURNED
TO YOUR
ORIGINAL
BODY.



BIG
BROTHER,
HOW COULD
YOU GO OFF
AND DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
WITHOUT
TELLING
ME!?

DON'T
YELL AT
ME JUST
YET.



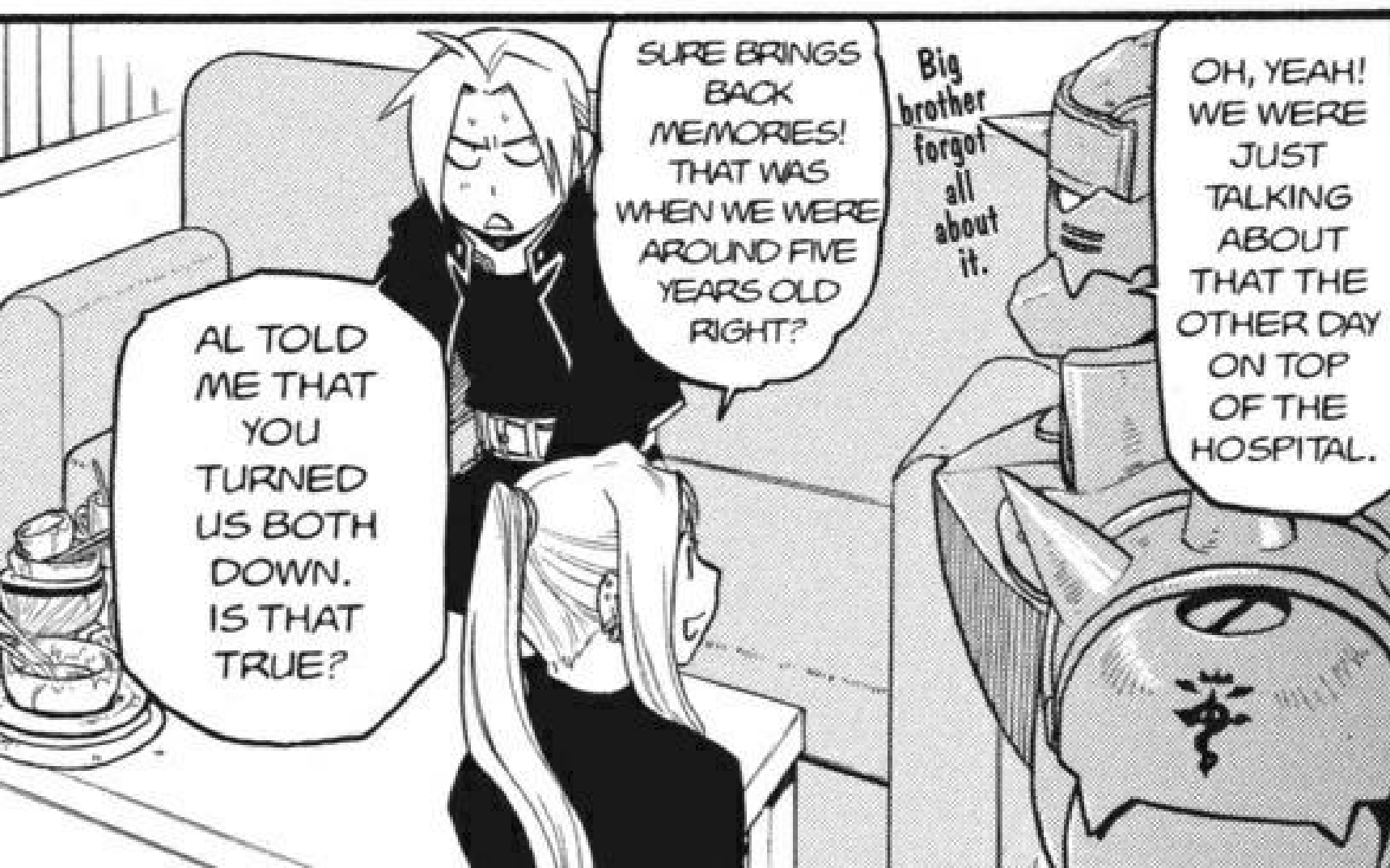
YOU
GUYS
RE-
MEM-
BER
THAT
?

A LONG
TIME
AGO...WE
FOUGHT
OVER WHO
WOULD...
MARRY
WINRY.



REALLY
!?

NOW
LET ME
ASK THE
TWO OF
YOU A
QUES-
TION.



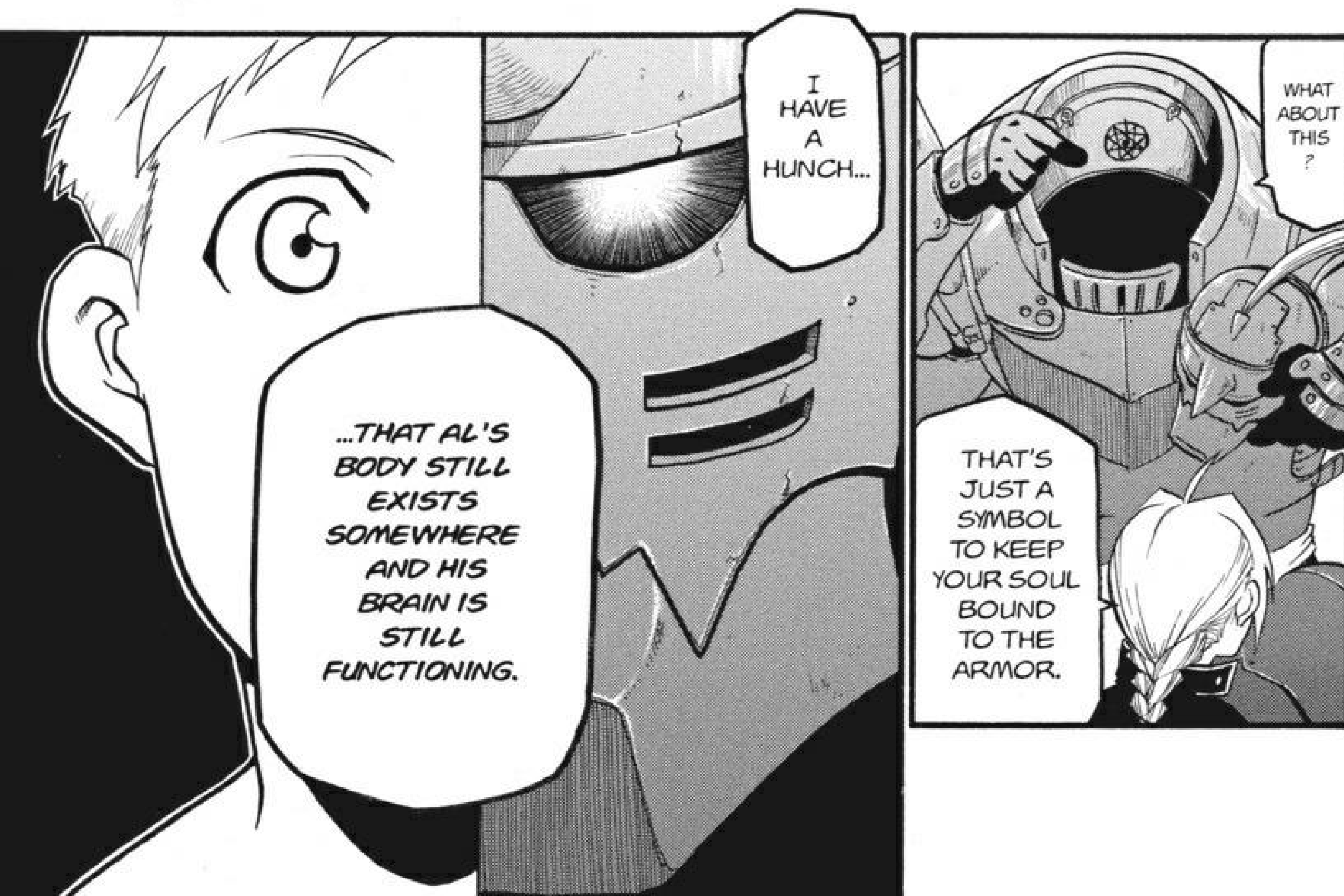
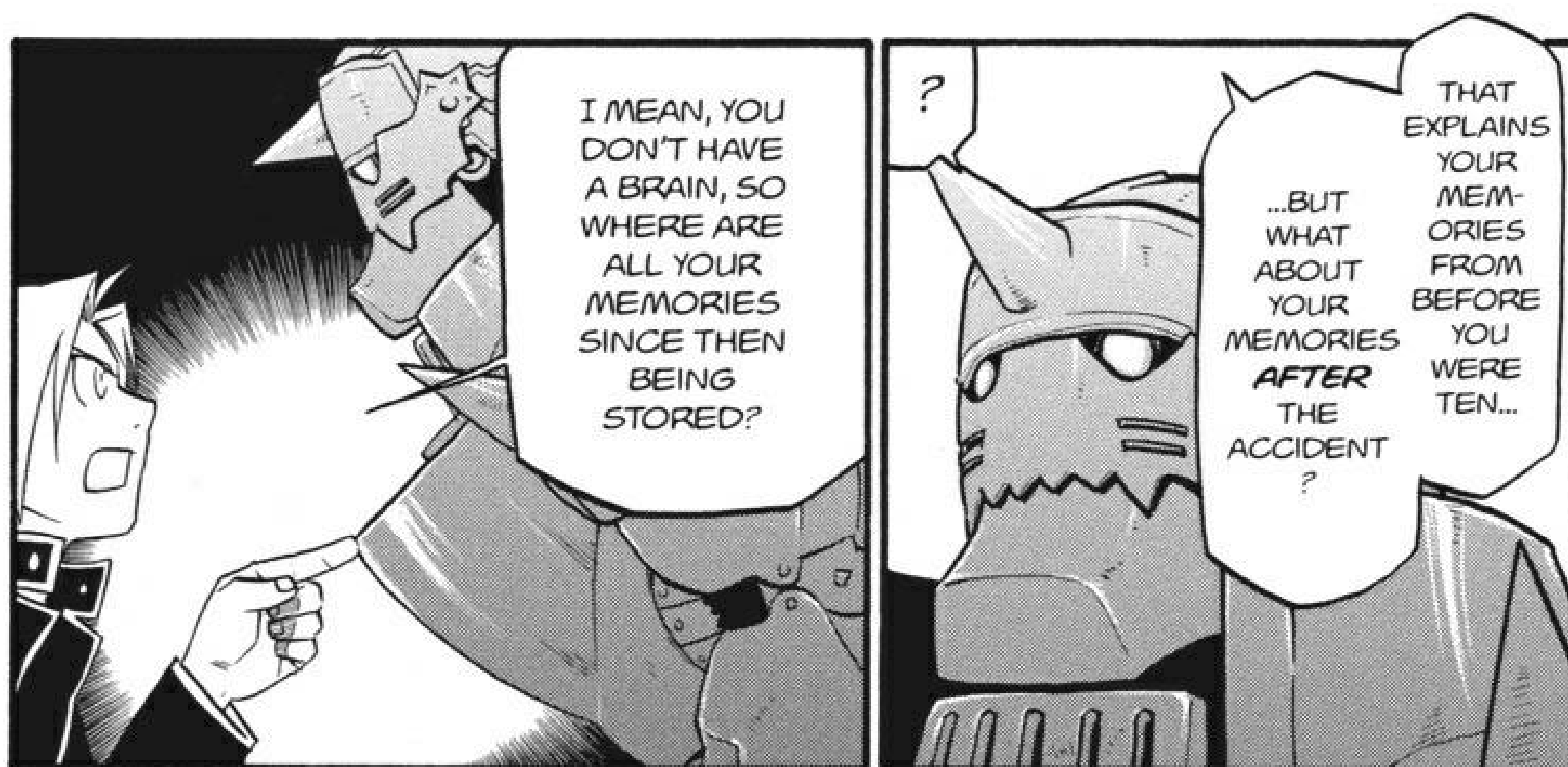
AL TOLD
ME THAT
YOU
TURNED
US BOTH
DOWN.
IS THAT
TRUE?

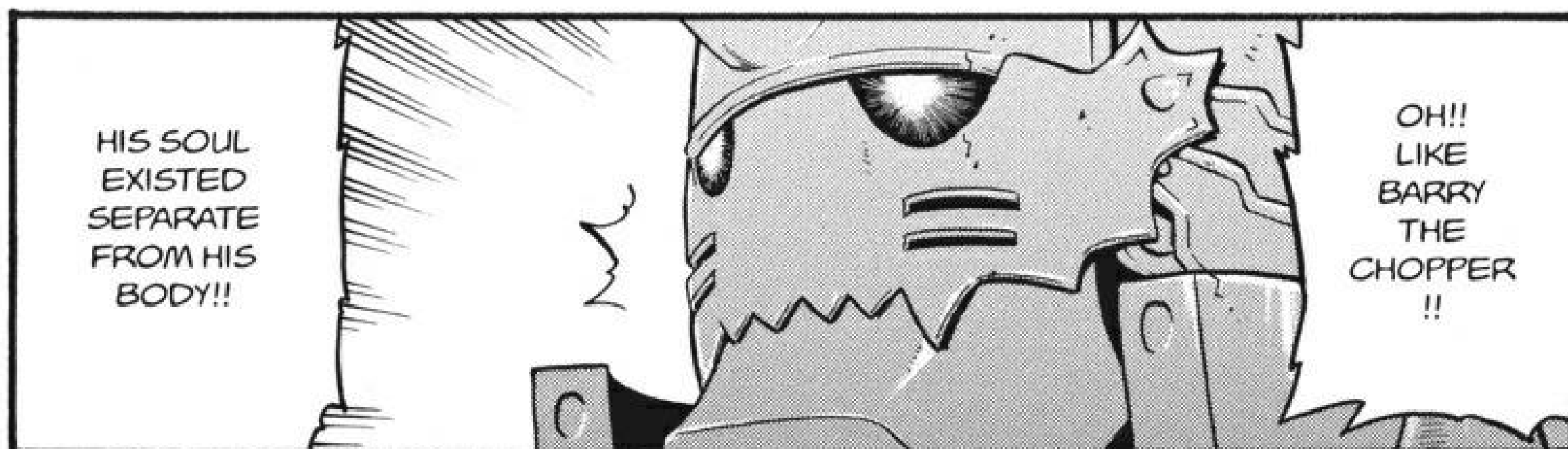
SURE BRINGS
BACK
MEMORIES!
THAT WAS
WHEN WE WERE
AROUND FIVE
YEARS OLD
RIGHT?

Big
brother
forgot
all
about
it.

OH, YEAH!
WE WERE
JUST
TALKING
ABOUT
THAT THE
OTHER DAY
ON TOP OF
THE HOSPITAL.







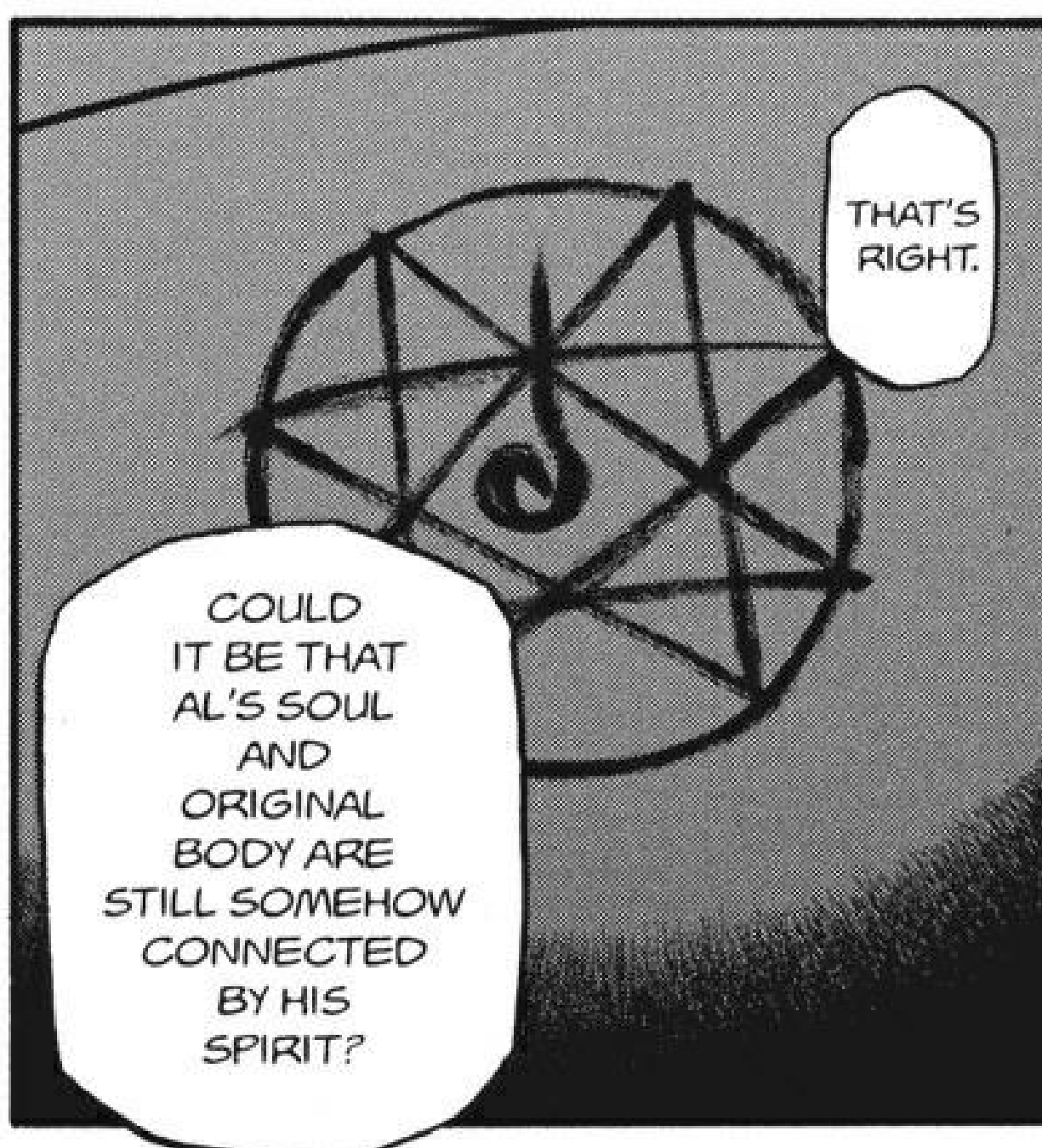
HIS SOUL
EXISTED
SEPARATE
FROM HIS
BODY!!

OH!!
LIKE
BARRY
THE
CHOPPER
!!



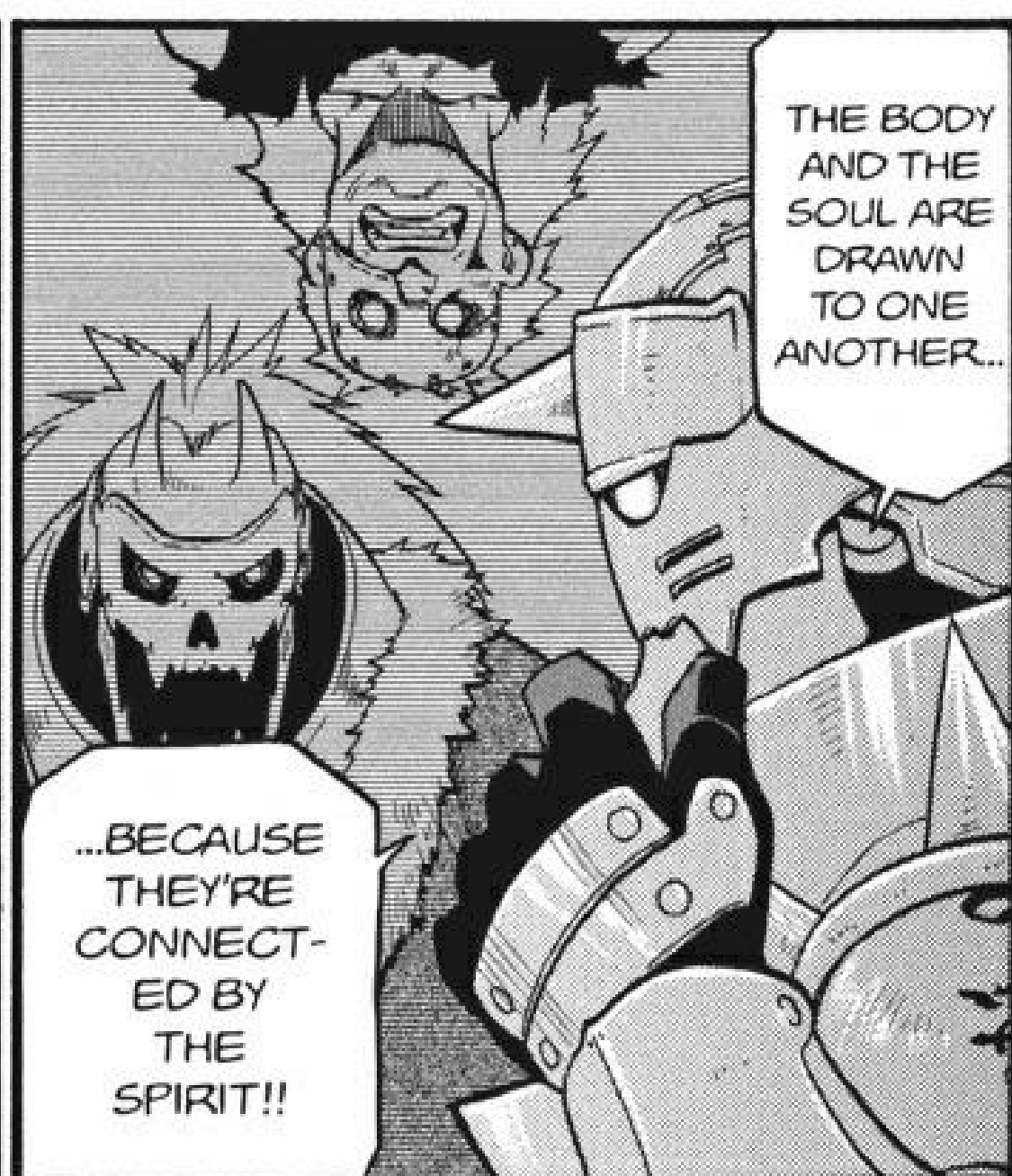
I THINK
THAT THE
SPIRIT
IS WHAT
CONNECTS
THE **BODY**
TO THE
SOUL.

ALCHEMY
STATES THAT
A HUMAN
BEING IS
COMPOSED
OF THE **BODY**,
SOUL AND
SPIRIT.



THAT'S
RIGHT.

COULD
IT BE THAT
AL'S SOUL
AND
ORIGINAL
BODY ARE
STILL SOMEHOW
CONNECTED
BY HIS
SPIRIT?



THE BODY
AND THE
SOUL ARE
DRAWN
TO ONE
ANOTHER...

...BECAUSE
THEY'RE
CONNECT-
ED BY
THE
SPIRIT!!



YOU
DIDN'T
DIE--
YOU
WERE
"TAKEN."

ON THAT
DAY, I
UNCON-
SCIOUSLY
SAID,
"THEY TOOK
HIM."

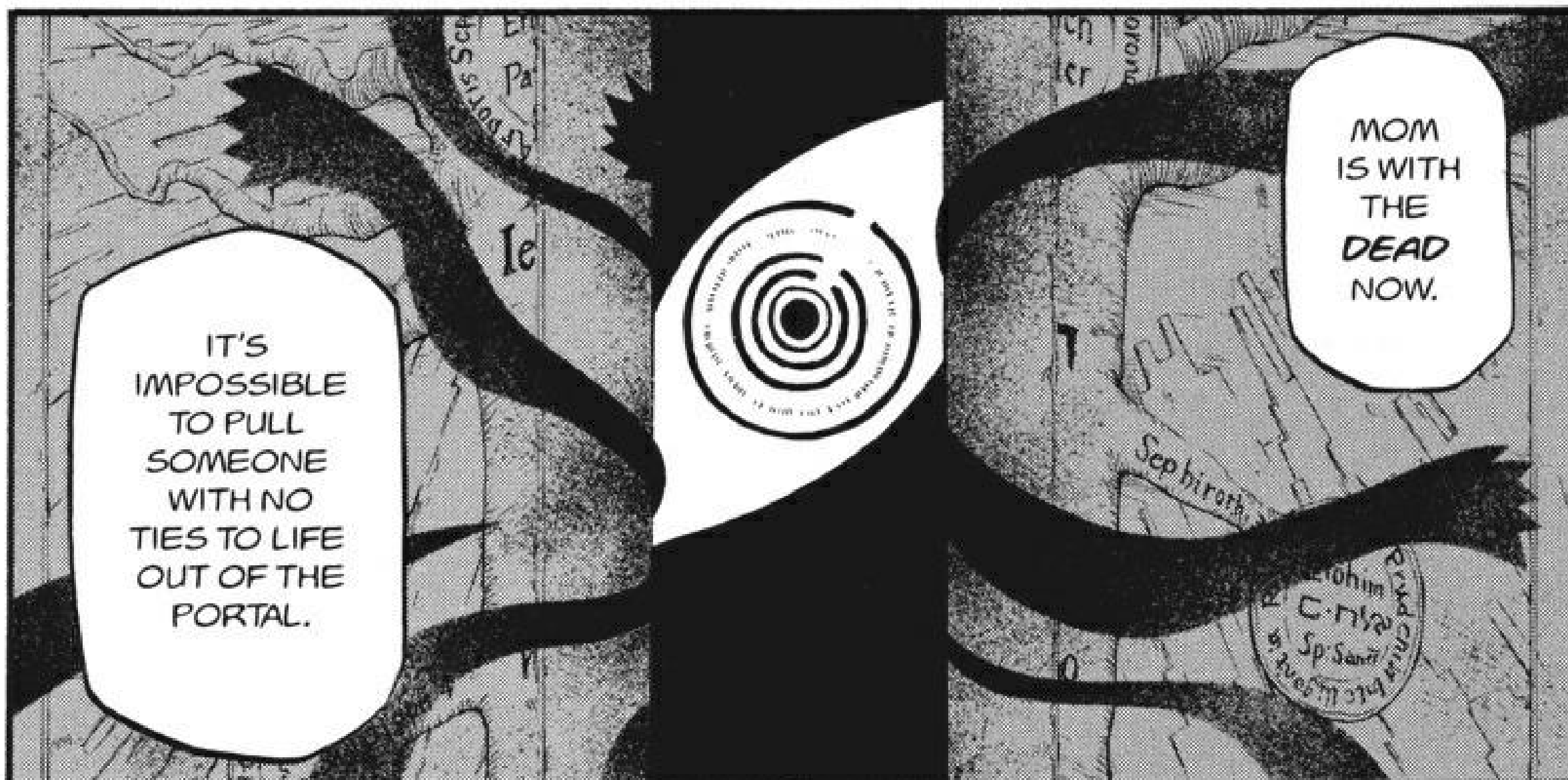


AND THEN I
PAID ANOTHER
TOLL, GIVING
MY RIGHT ARM
TO PULL YOUR
SOUL BACK
OUT.



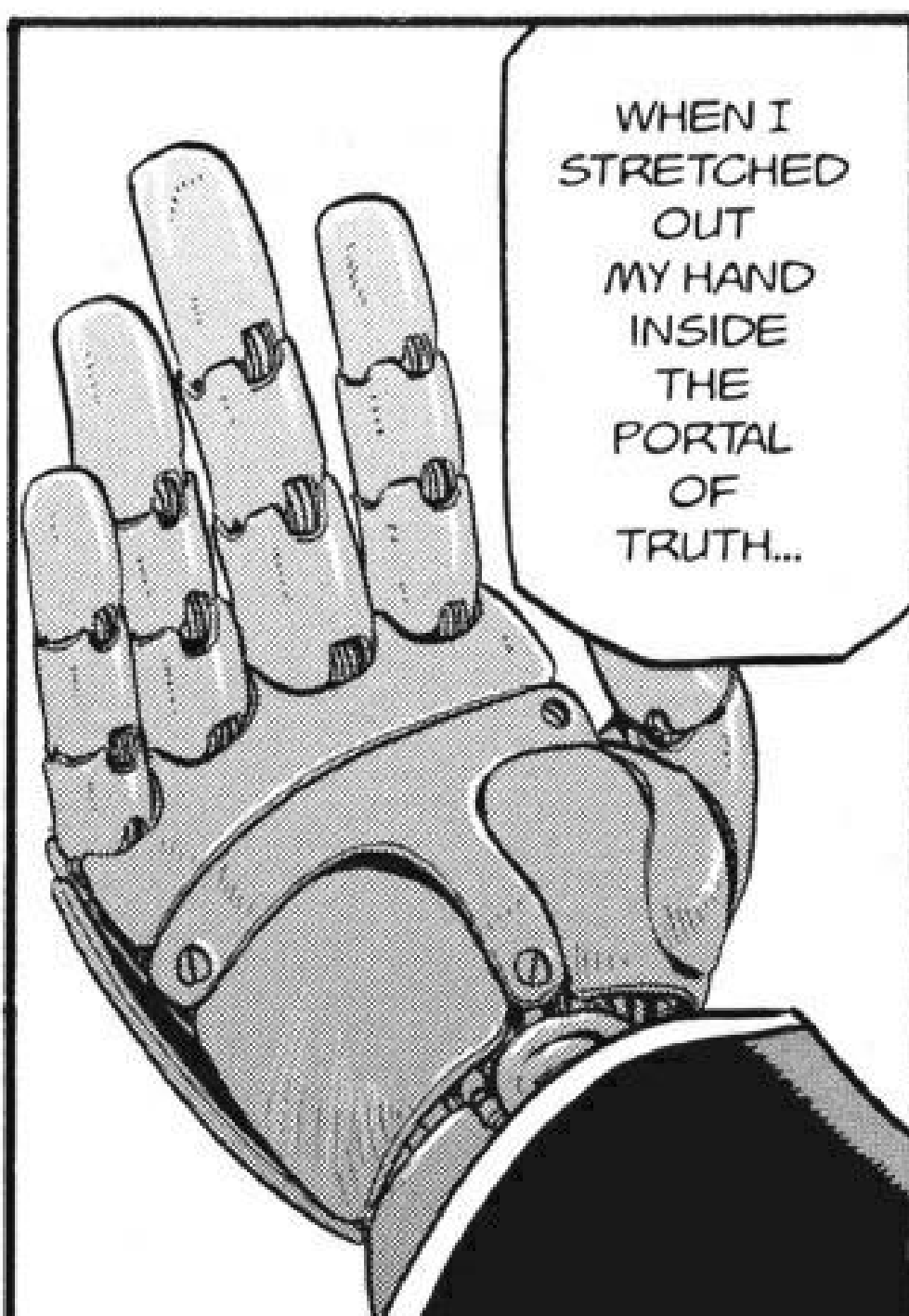
THAT GUY
DEFINITELY
CALLED IT
A "TOLL."

YOUR BODY
WAS TAKEN,
NOT AS AN
INGREDIENT
FOR MOM'S
TRANSMUTATION,
BUT AS A
TOLL TO PASS
THROUGH
THE **PORTAL**
OF TRUTH.



IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO PULL
SOMEONE
WITH NO
TIES TO LIFE
OUT OF THE
PORTAL.

MOM
IS WITH
THE
DEAD
NOW.



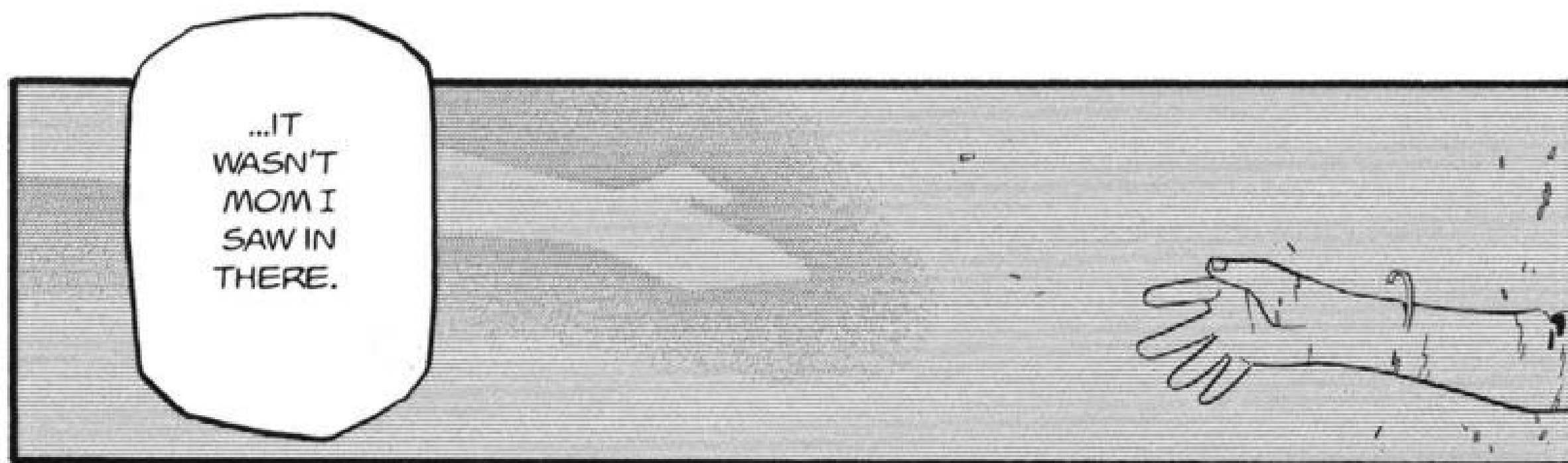
WHEN I
STRETCHED
OUT
MY HAND
INSIDE
THE
PORTAL
OF
TRUTH...

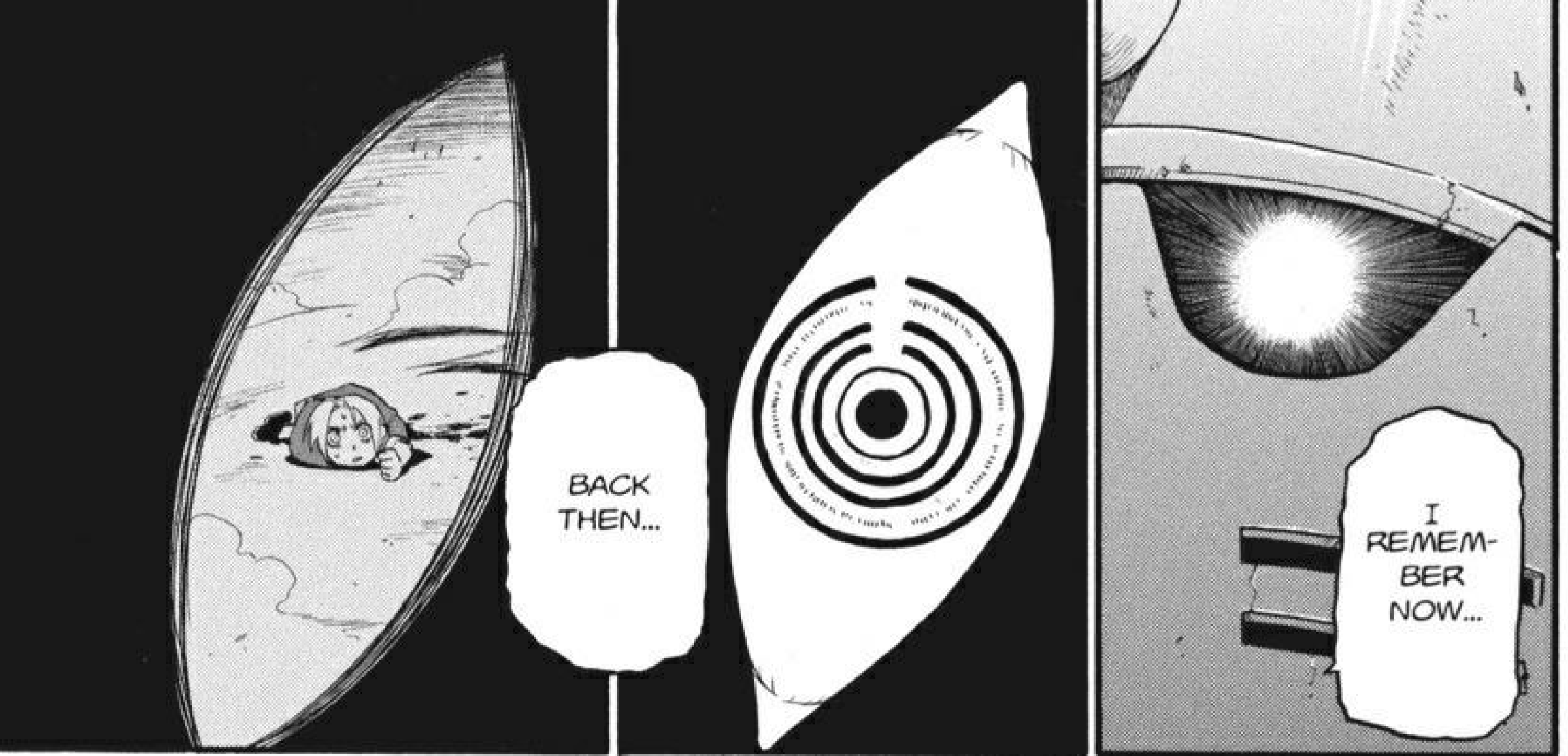


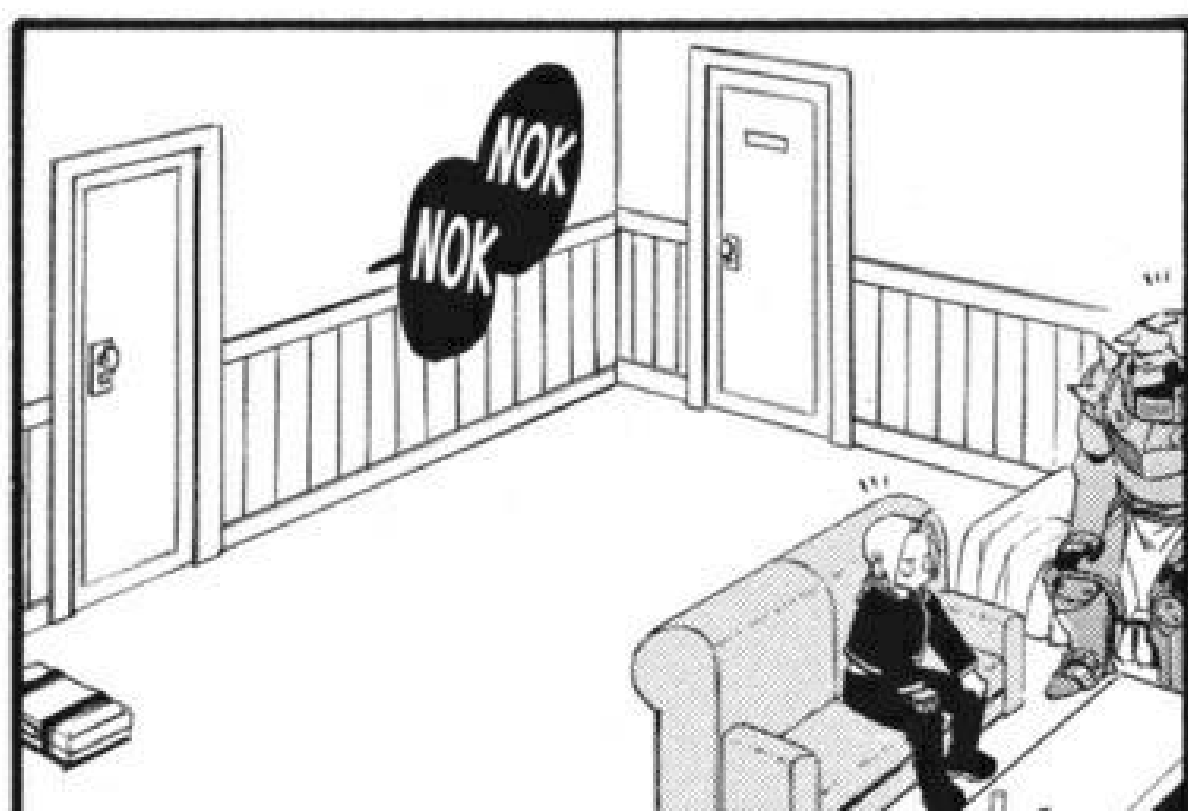
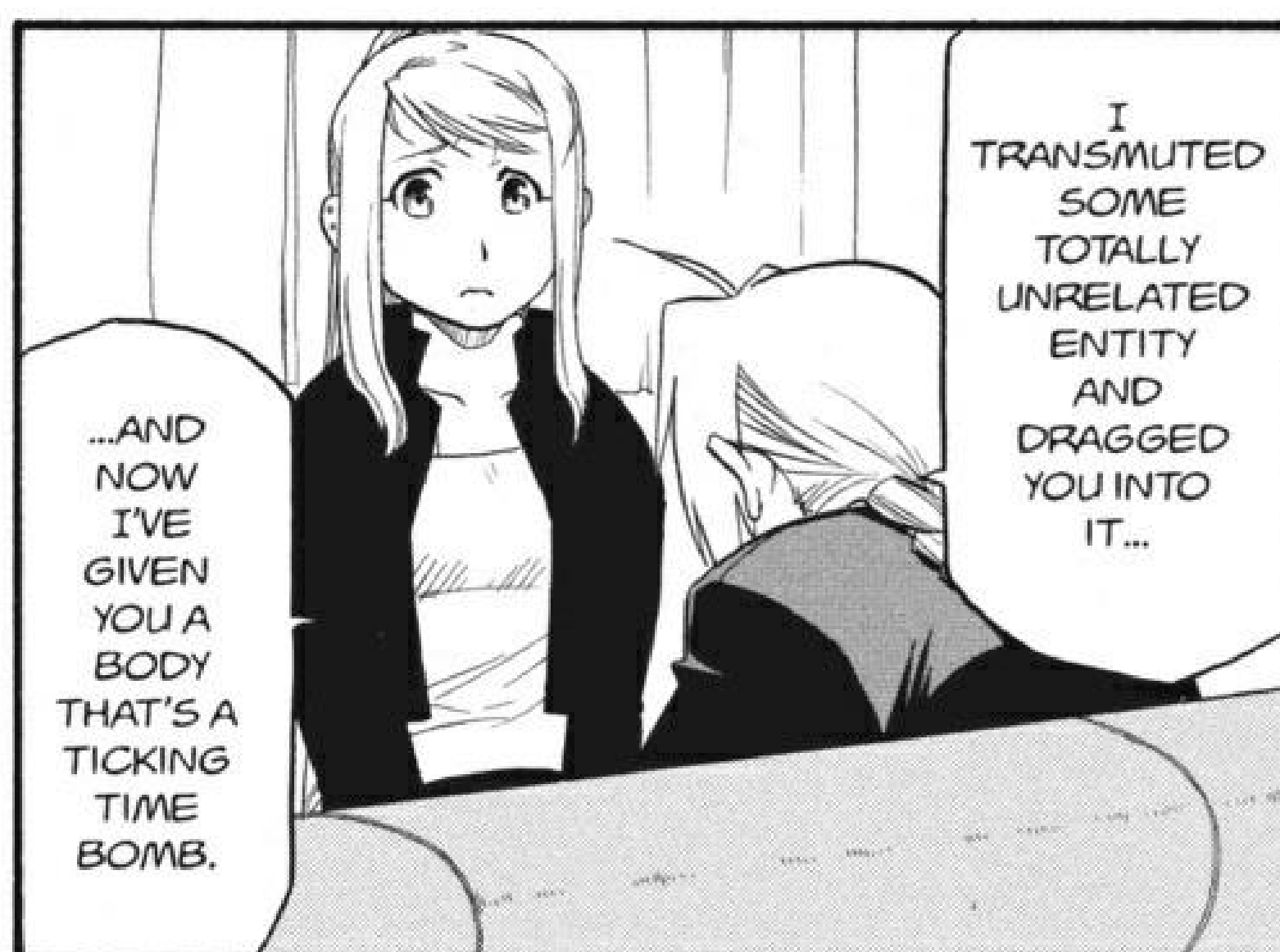
IT'S A SIGN
THAT YOU
STILL EXIST
AMONG THE
LIVING!

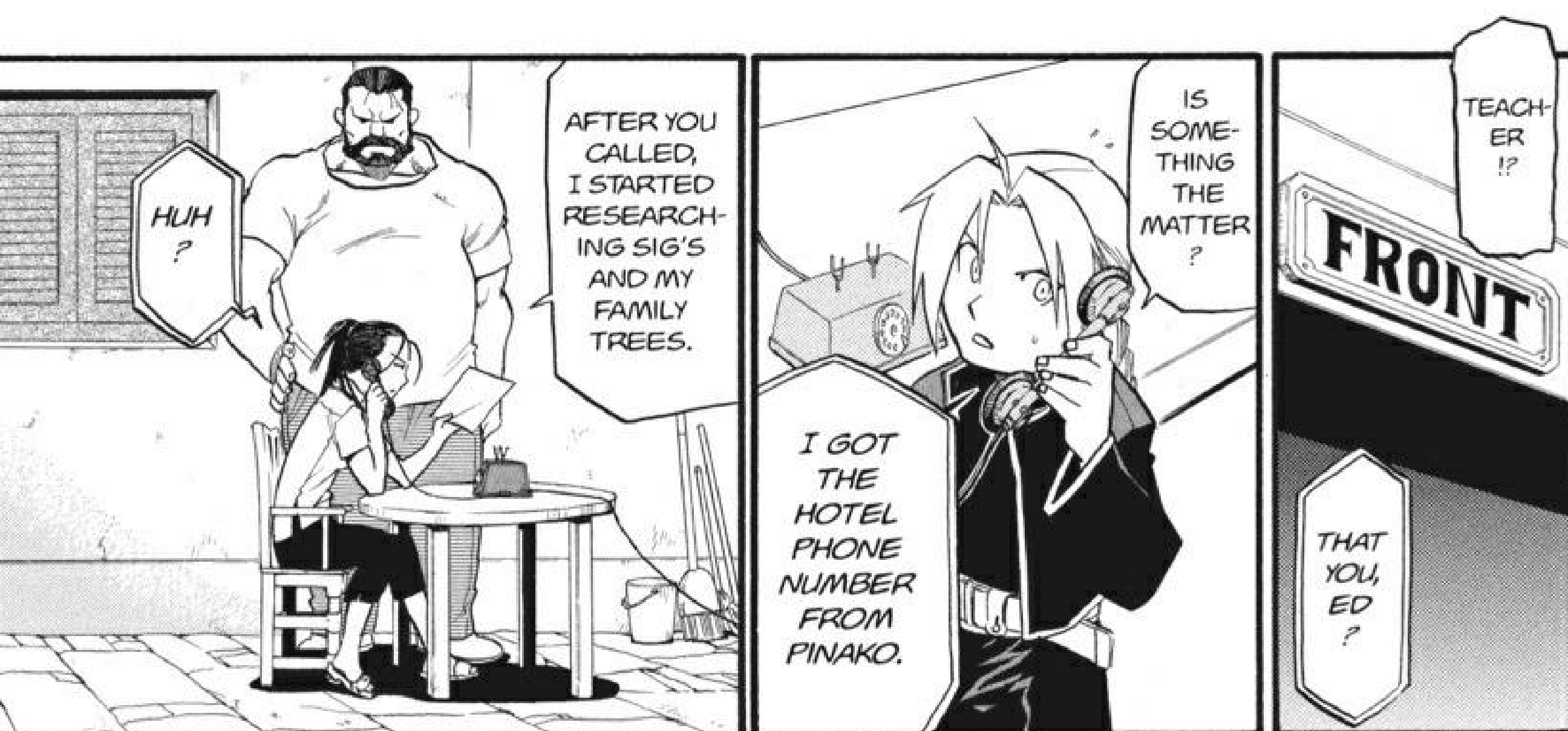
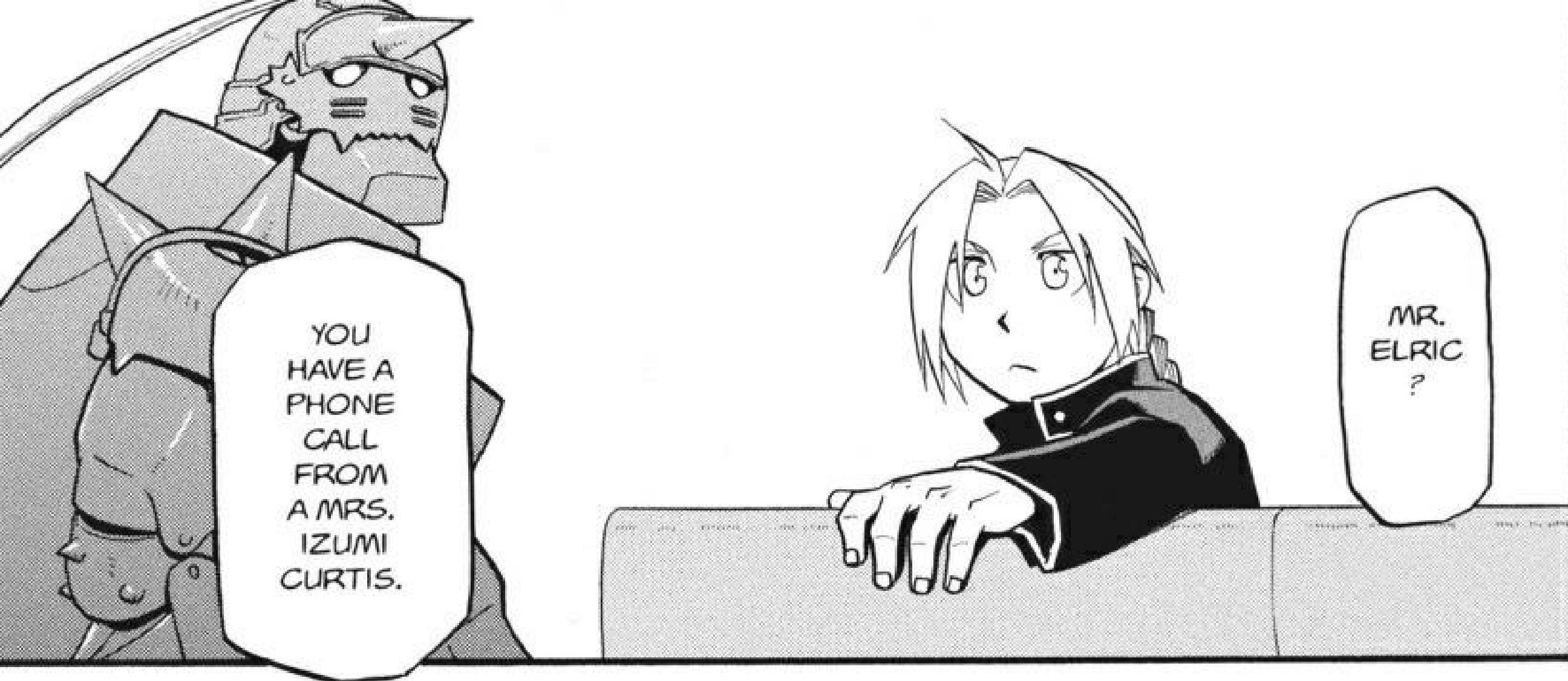
I WAS
ABLE
TO
PULL
YOUR
SOUL
OUT...

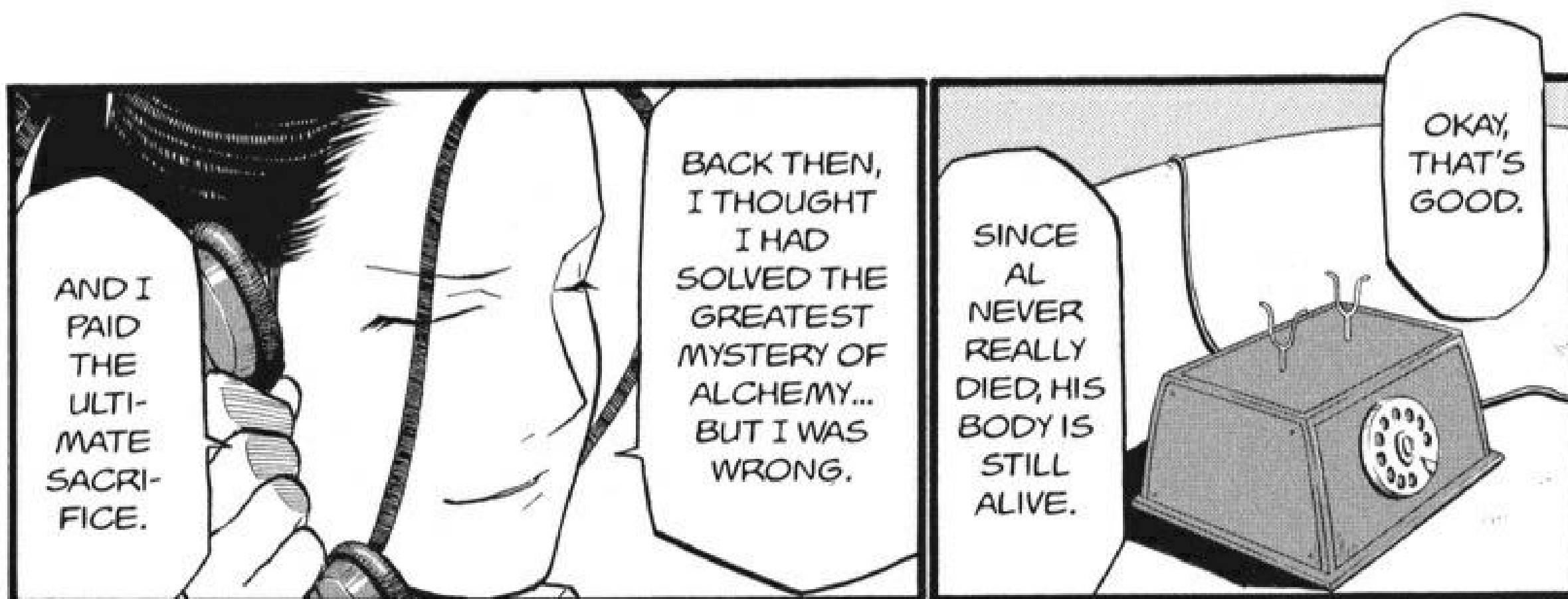
BUT,
AL...

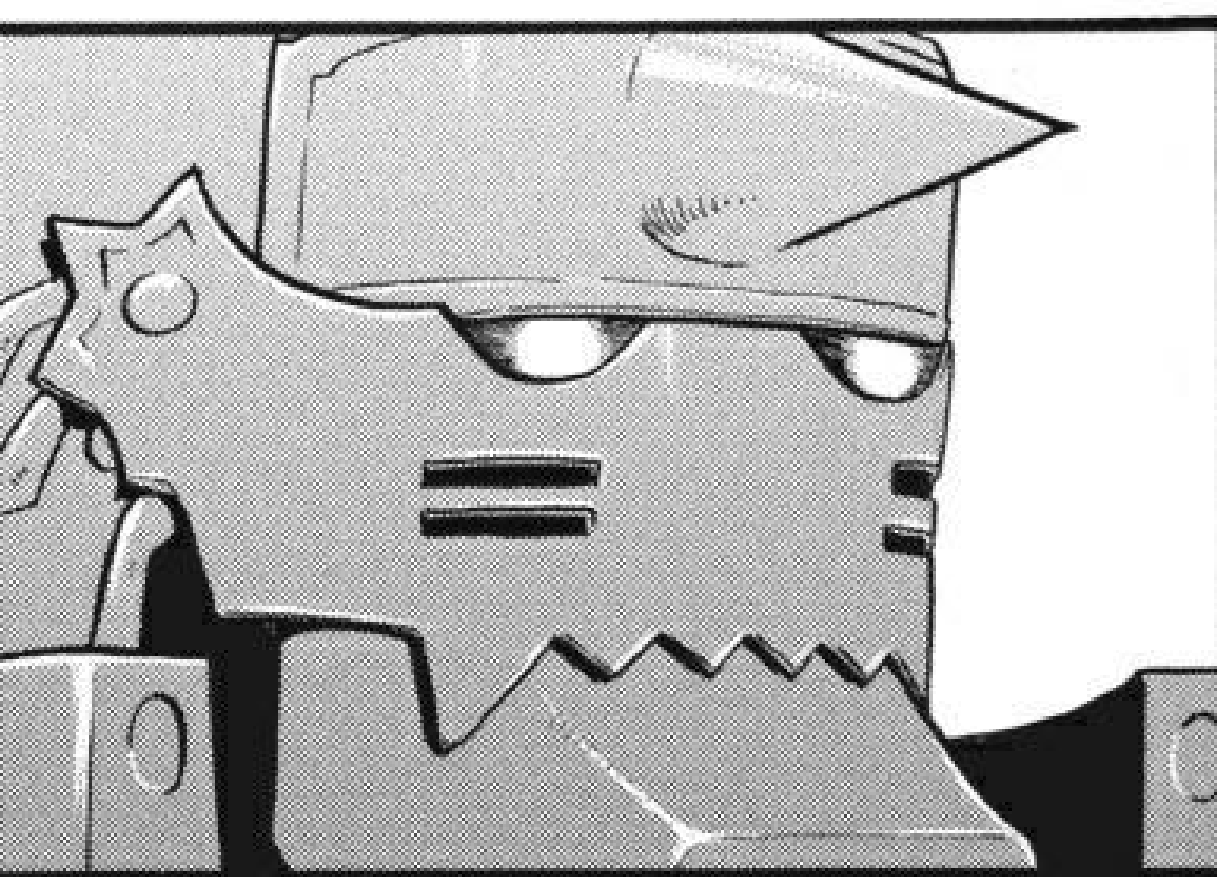
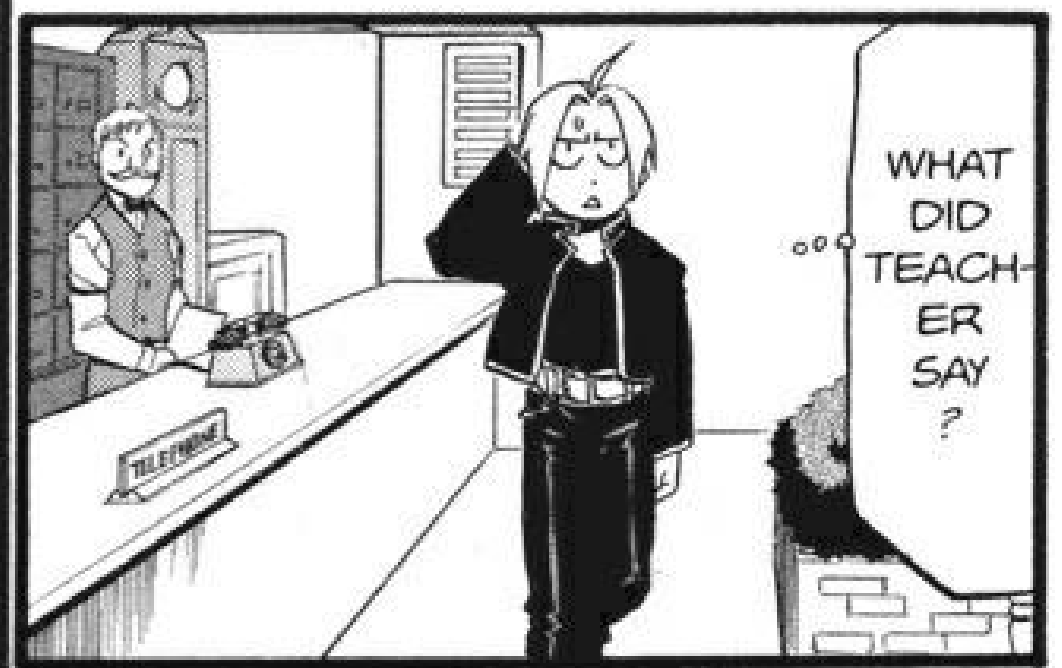


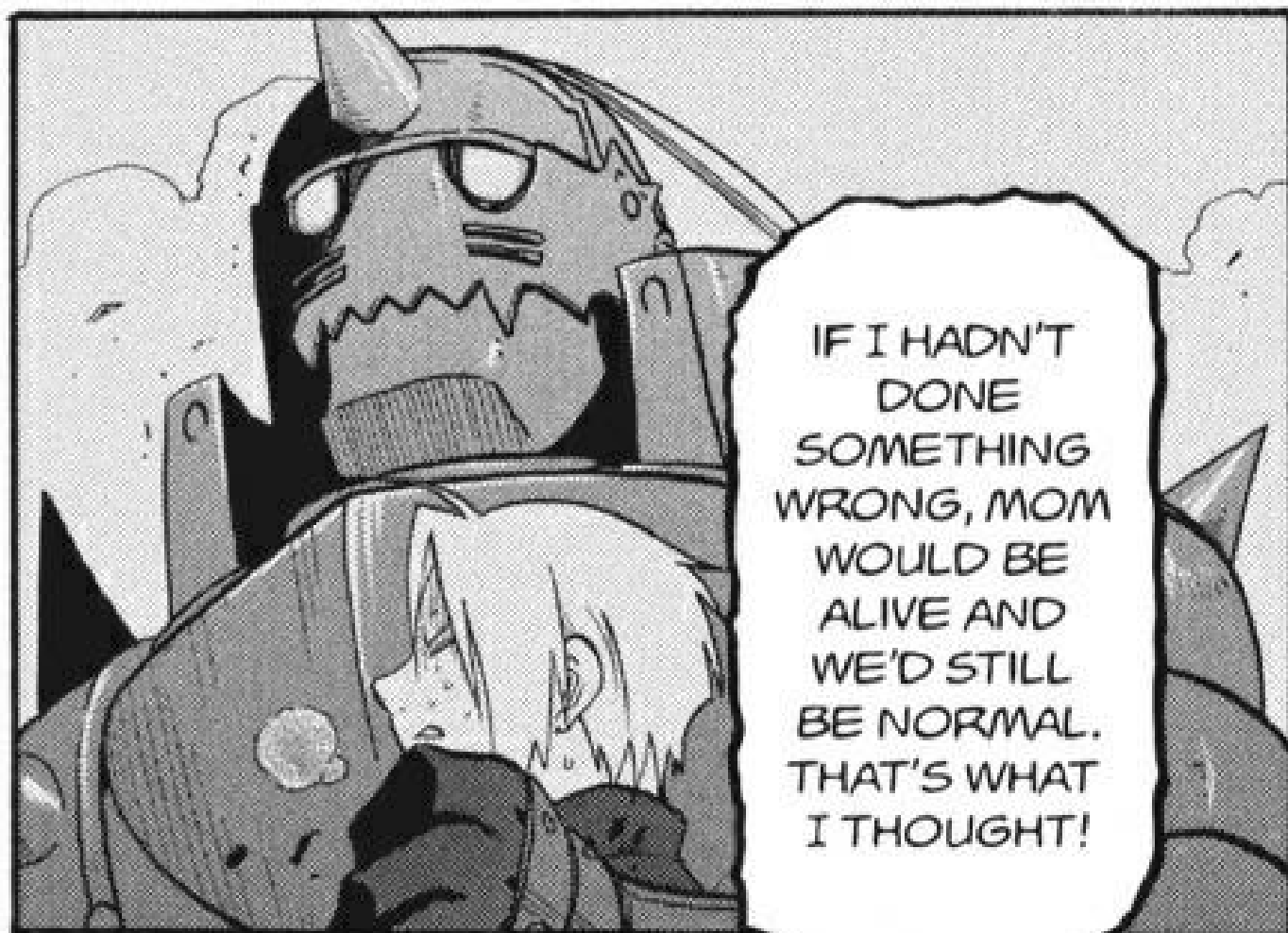








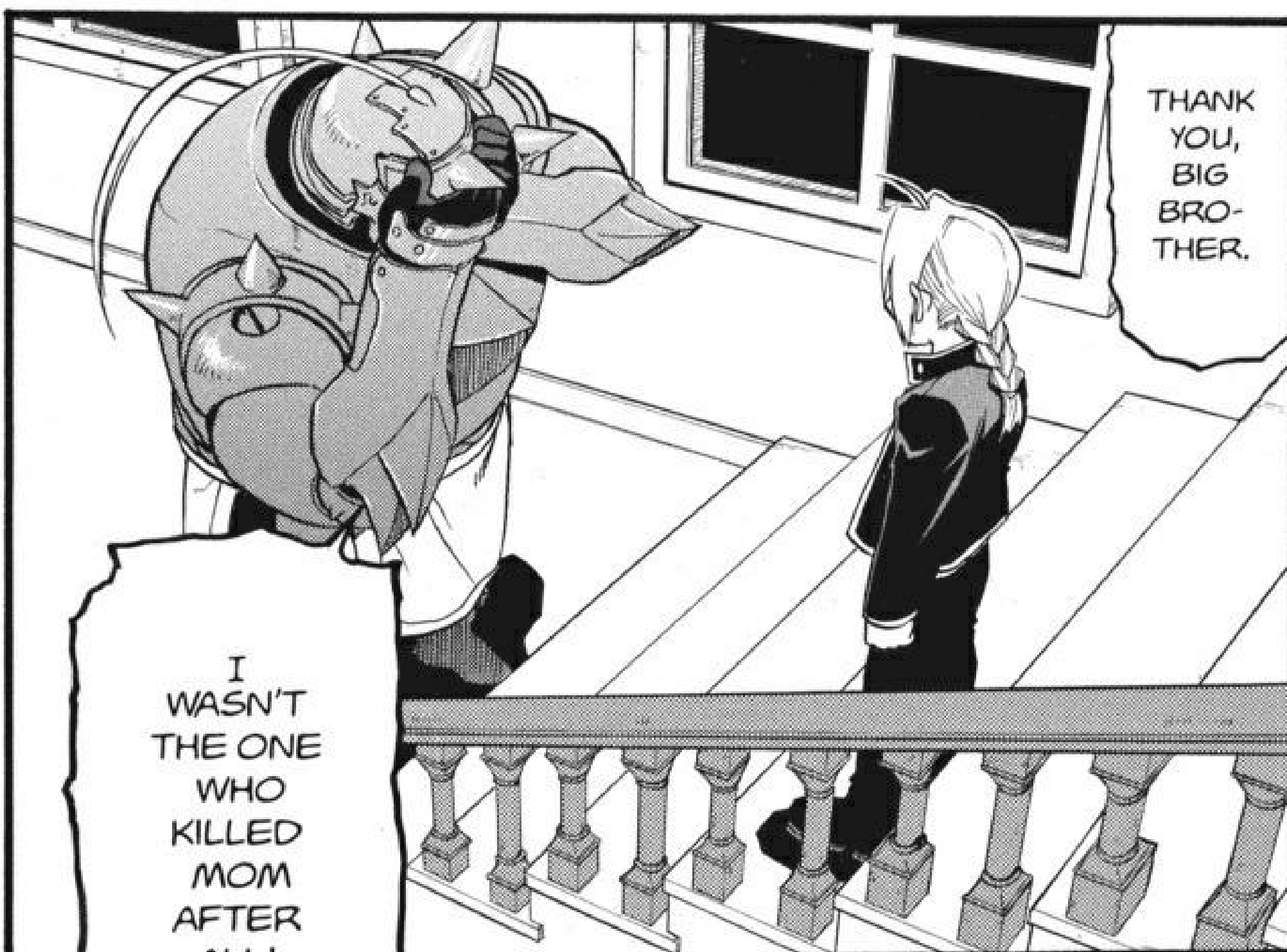




IF I HADN'T
DONE
SOMETHING
WRONG, MOM
WOULD BE
ALIVE AND
WE'D STILL
BE NORMAL.
THAT'S WHAT
I THOUGHT!



I THOUGHT
MOM WAS
TURNED INTO
THAT THING
BECAUSE
OF ME!



THANK
YOU,
BIG
BRO-
THER.

I
WASN'T
THE ONE
WHO
KILLED
MOM
AFTER
ALL!



I
BLAMED
MYSELF
TOO.



IZUMI...



I DIDN'T
CAUSE MY
CHILD TO
DIE A
SECOND
TIME!



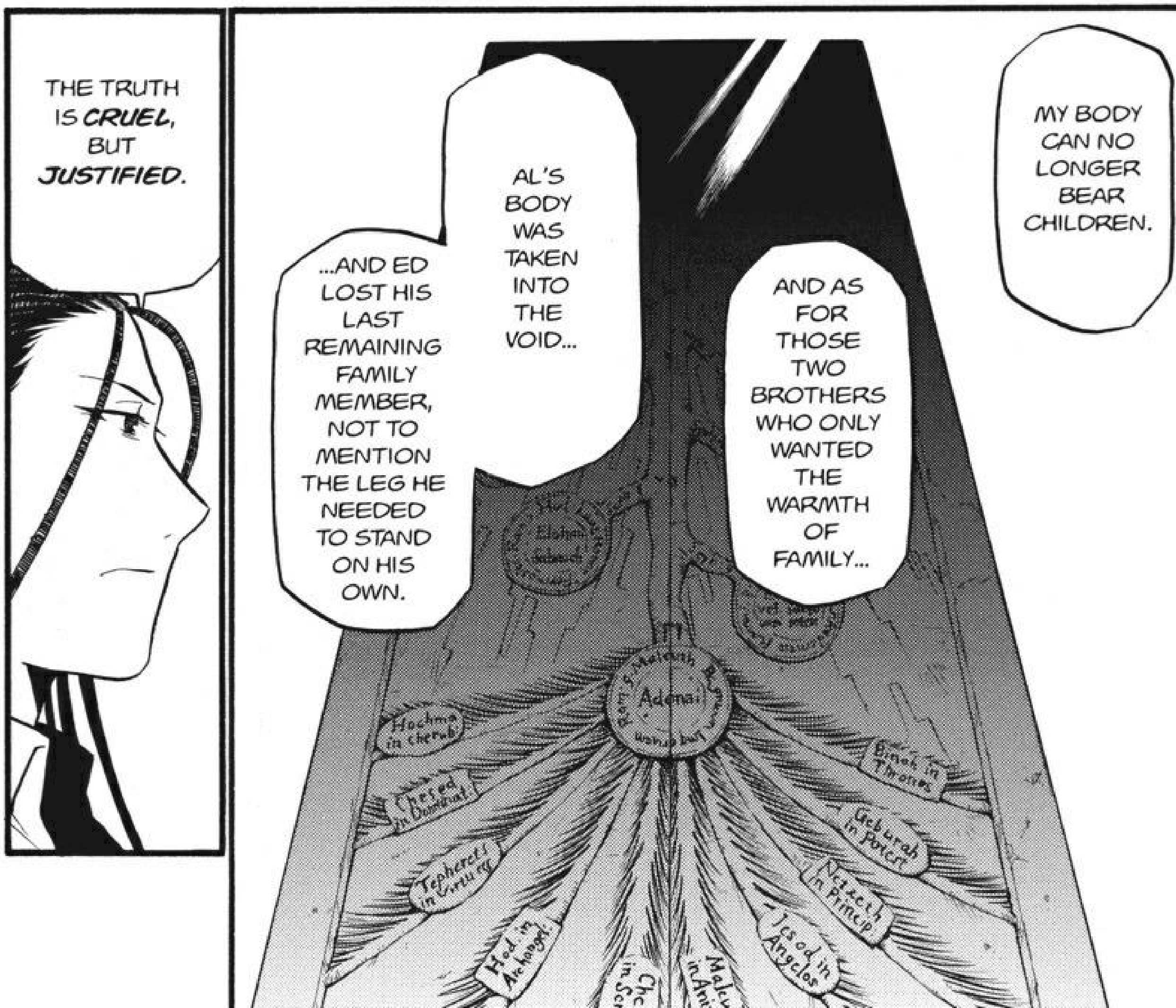
I FEEL
LIKE A
GREAT
WEIGHT
HAS
BEEN
LIFTED
FROM MY
SOUL.

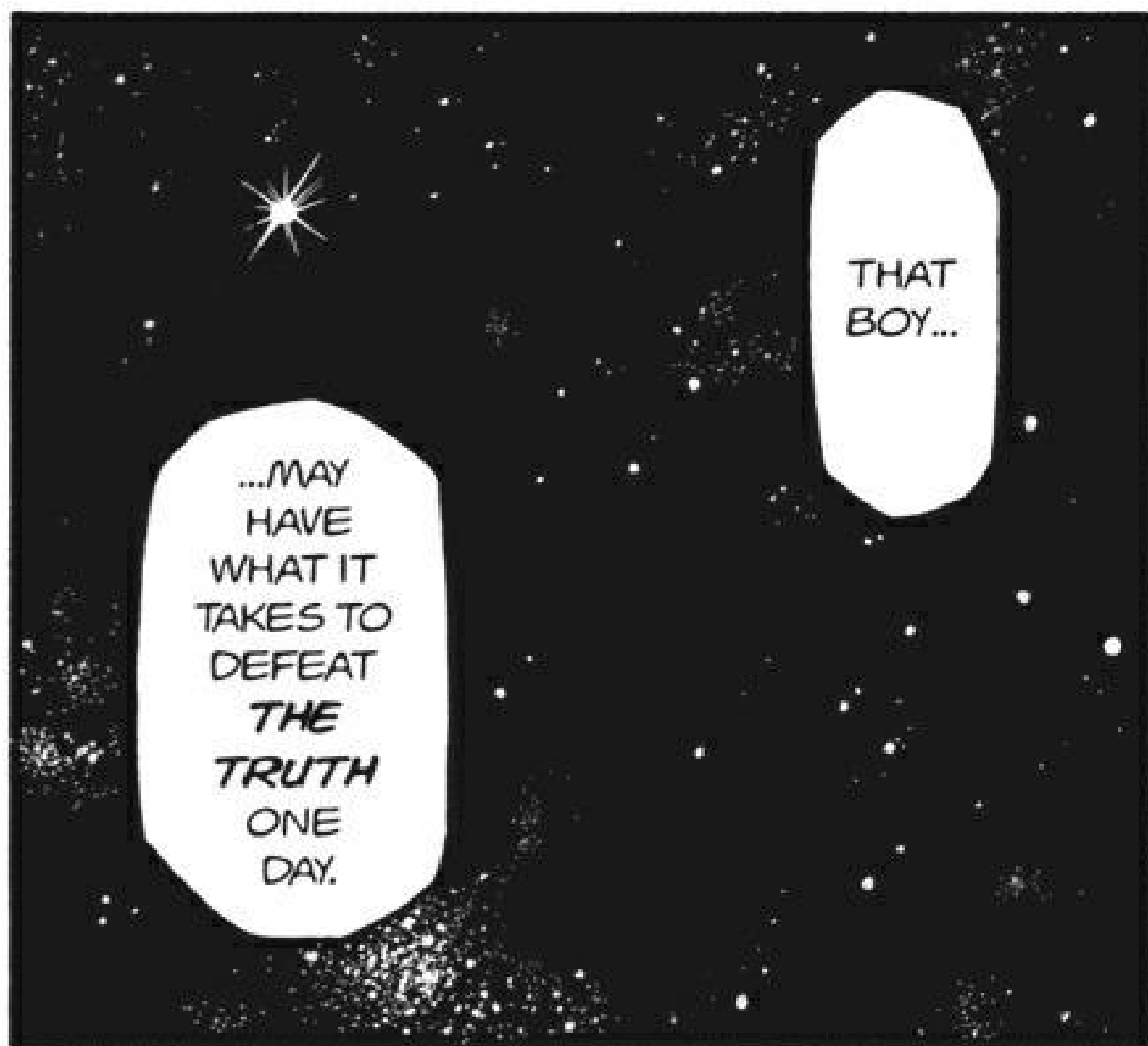


I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
THAT
DAY...



STILL,
WHAT
WE DID
WAS
UNFOR-
GIVABLE.







IT'S
PAINFUL
TO
WATCH.

YOU
ALWAYS
TRY TO
TAKE
ALL THE
BLAME
YOUR-
SELF.

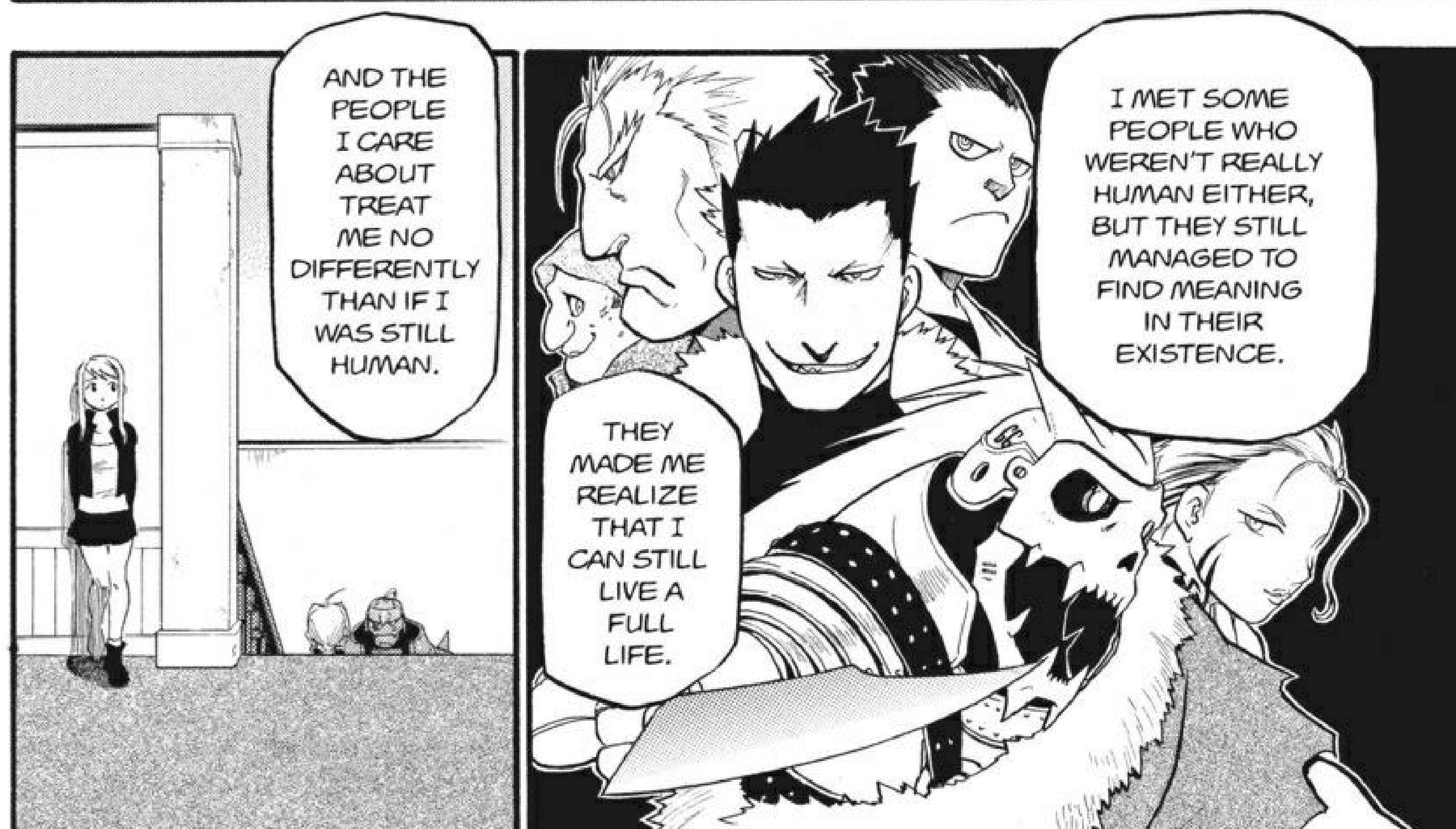
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
SHOULDER
THE
BURDEN
ALONE.

WHAT YOU
DID WAS
WRONG,
BUT I'M
JUST AS
GUILTY.



AFTER MR.
HUGHES DIED, I
TOLD MYSELF THAT
IF GETTING MY
ORIGINAL BODY
BACK MEANT
SOMEONE ELSE
MIGHT GET HURT,
I DIDN'T WANT
TO PURSUE IT.

SEEING
YOU
SUFFER
LIKE
THAT...



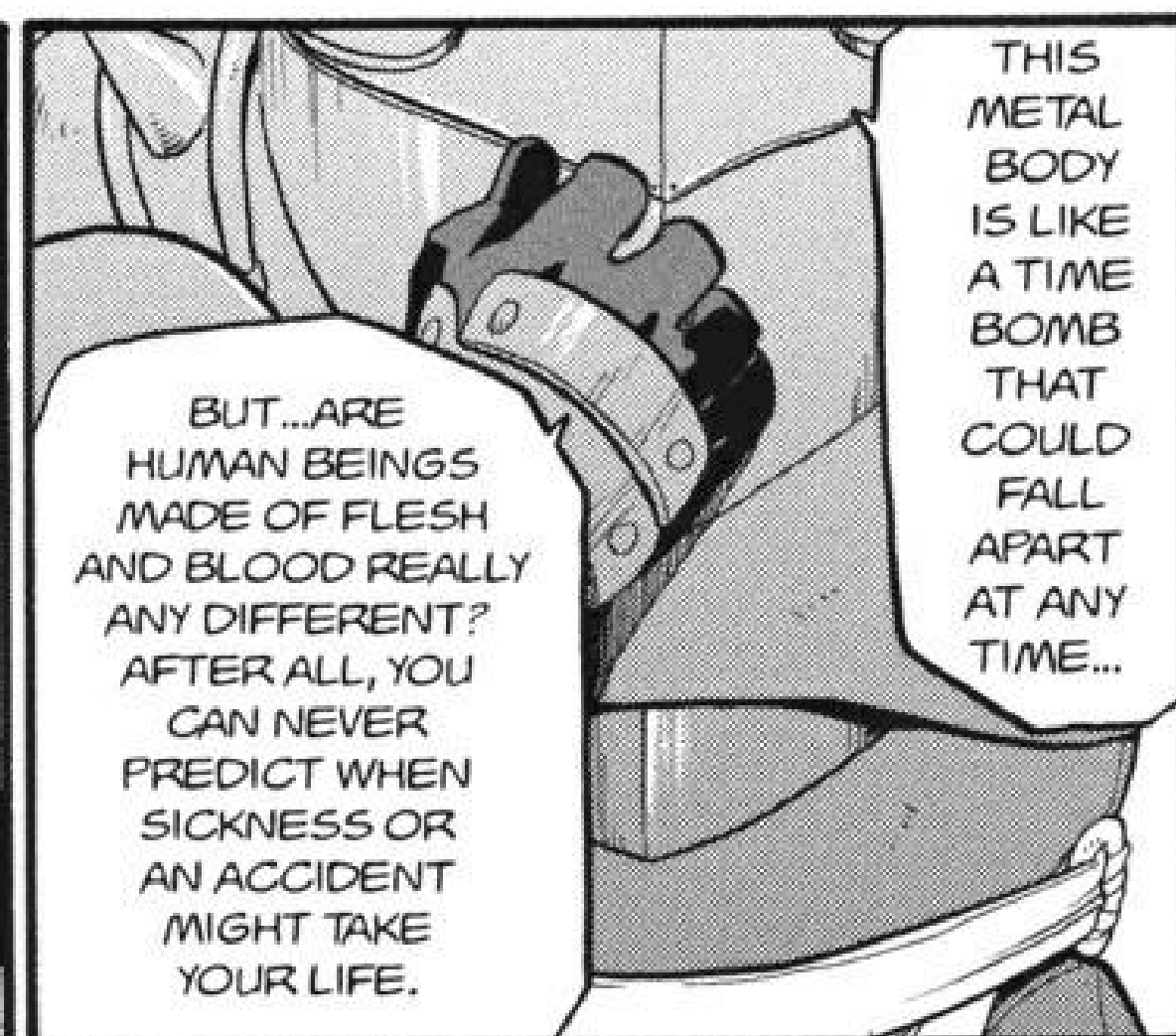
AND THE
PEOPLE
I CARE
ABOUT
TREAT
ME NO
DIFFERENTLY
THAN IF I
WAS STILL
HUMAN.

THEY
MADE ME
REALIZE
THAT I
CAN STILL
LIVE A
FULL
LIFE.

I MET SOME
PEOPLE WHO
WEREN'T REALLY
HUMAN EITHER,
BUT THEY STILL
MANAGED TO
FIND MEANING
IN THEIR
EXISTENCE.



I'M NOT
HANDICAPPED
BY THIS
BODY IF I
CHOOSE
TO LIVE A
NORMAL
LIFE.



BUT...ARE
HUMAN BEINGS
MADE OF FLESH
AND BLOOD REALLY
ANY DIFFERENT?
AFTER ALL, YOU
CAN NEVER
PREDICT WHEN
SICKNESS OR
AN ACCIDENT
MIGHT TAKE
YOUR LIFE.

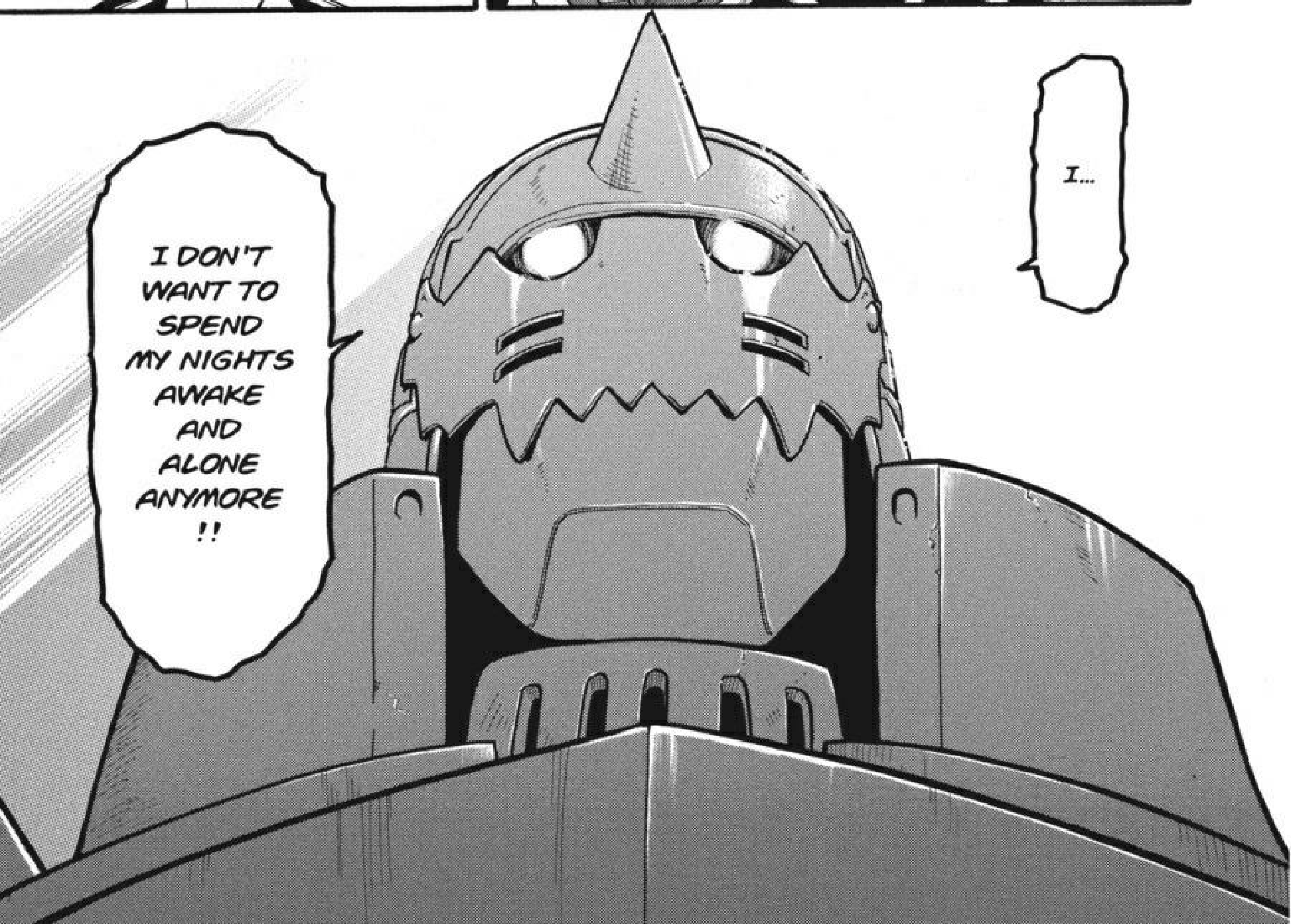
THIS
METAL
BODY
IS LIKE
A TIME
BOMB
THAT
COULD
FALL
APART
AT ANY
TIME...



I...

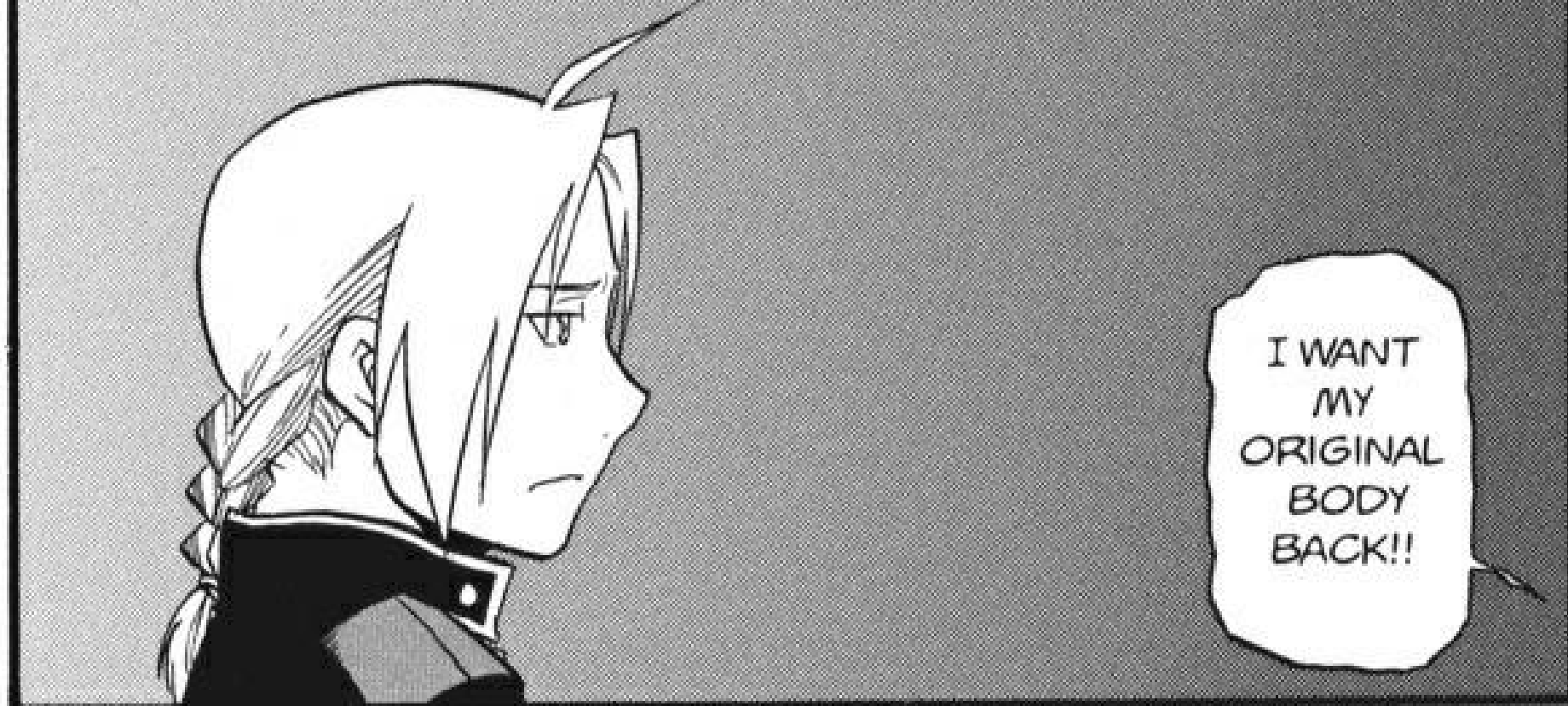


...BUT
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH.



I DON'T
WANT TO
SPEND
MY NIGHTS
AWAKE
AND
ALONE
ANYMORE
!!

I...



I WANT
MY
ORIGINAL
BODY
BACK!!

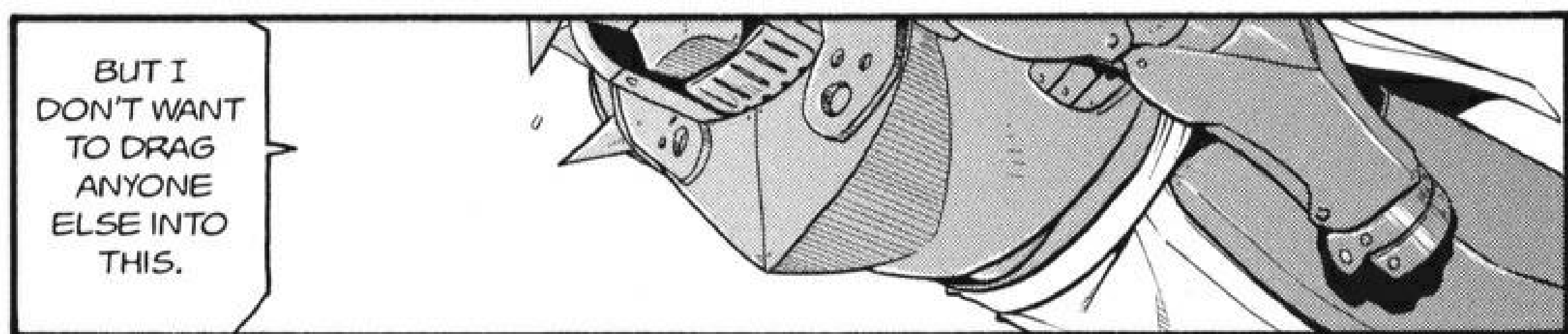


THAT'S
THE ONLY
REASON
I WANT TO
RETURN
TO
NORMAL.



THAT'S
ALL.

AL...
I JUST
WANT
TO SEE
YOU
SMILE
AGAIN.



BUT I
DON'T WANT
TO DRAG
ANYONE
ELSE INTO
THIS.



HA
HA
!

I
WAS
THINKING
THE
SAME
THING
!

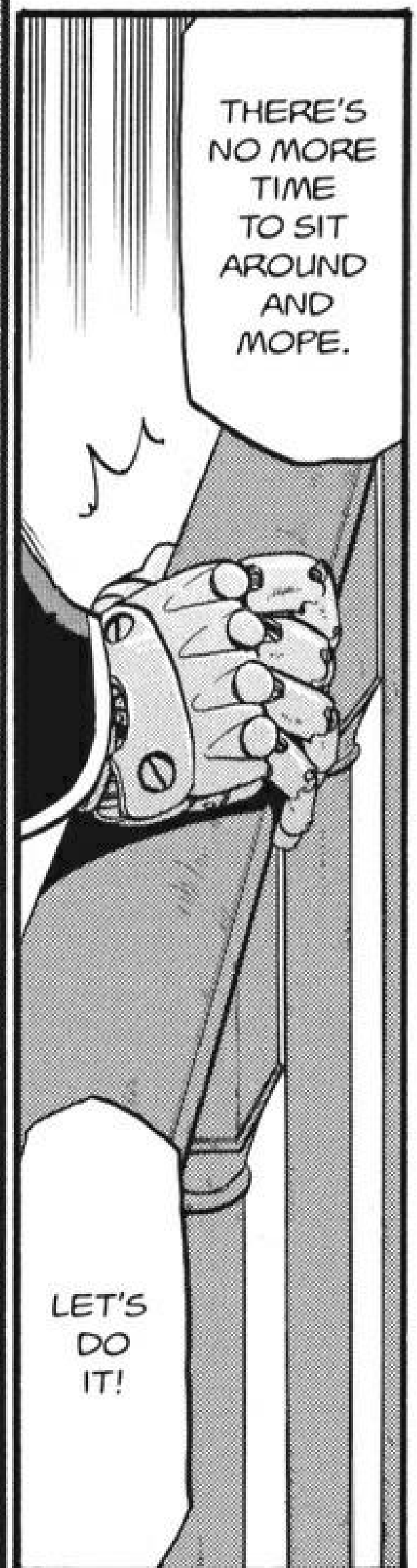
I'M GOING
TO GET MY
BODY BACK
AND I'M NOT
GOING TO
LOSE ANYONE
ELSE IN THE
PROCESS!

...I WANT
TO BE
STRONG
ENOUGH
TO
PROTECT
THE
PEOPLE
AROUND
ME!
SO,
BIG
BROTHER...



WE'RE
GOING
TO TRACK
DOWN
THAT
BASTARD
"TRUTH"...

...AND
PULL
YOUR
BODY
BACK
FROM
THAT
PLACE
!



THERE'S
NO MORE
TIME
TO SIT
AROUND
AND
MOPE.

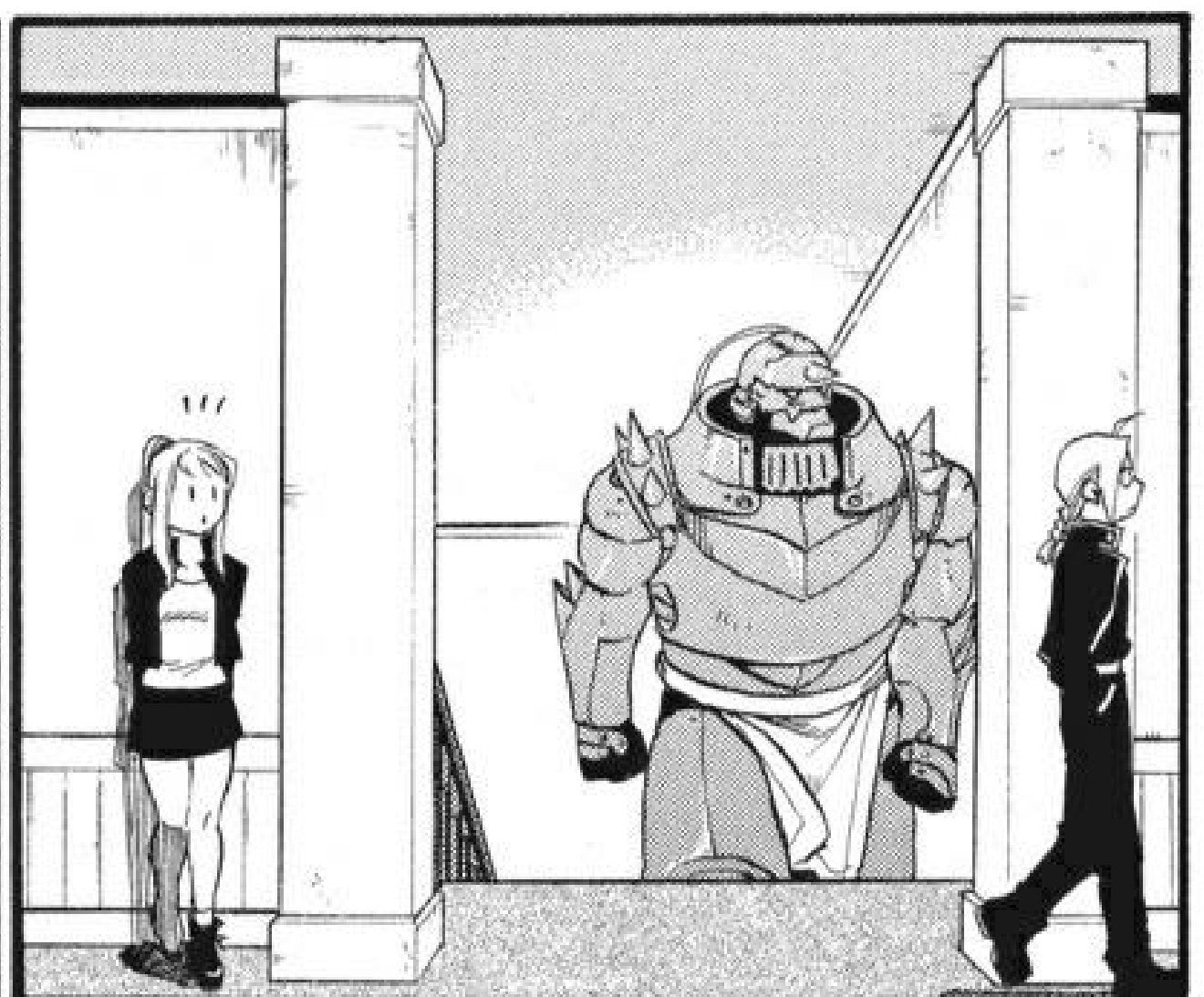
LET'S
DO
IT!

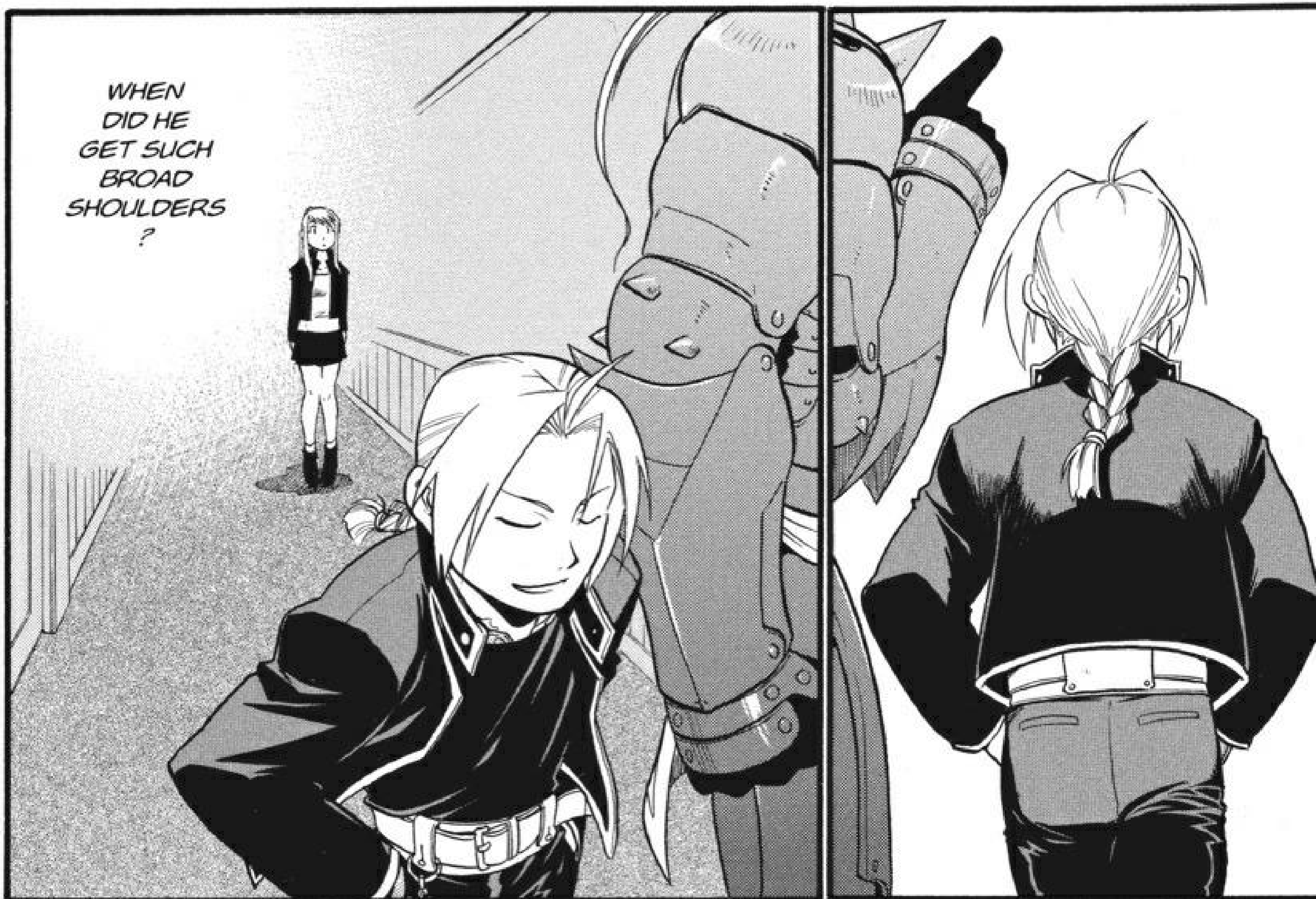
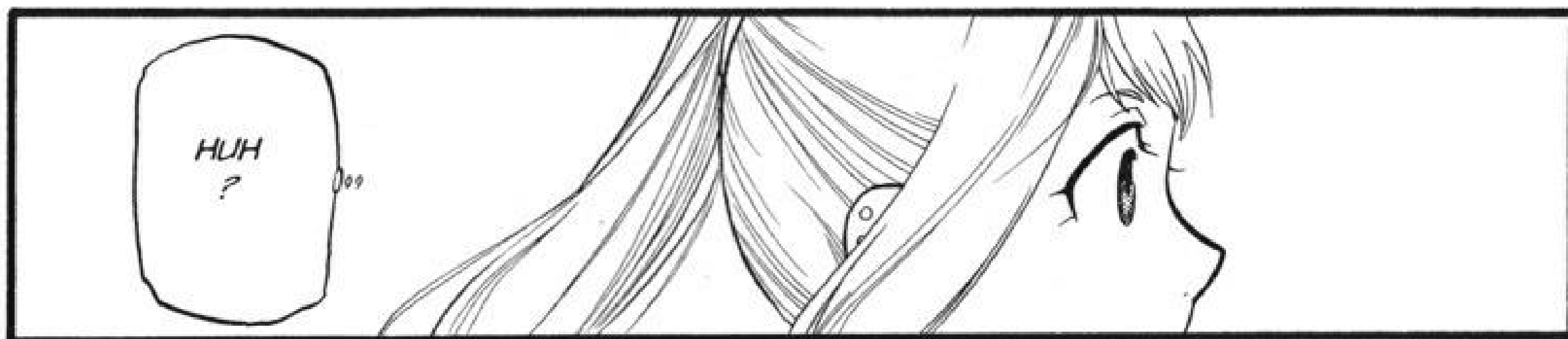


By the
way, Dad
came
back
right?

Yup.
He's a
real
jerk.

Tup
Tup
Tup







WELL
THEN,
PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME.



SO
WE'RE
STUCK...



I

I
CAN'T
MOVE
AROUND
AS
FREELY
ANY-
MORE.



MY
MOTHER.
AND
SOMEONE
FROM
THE
DISCHARGE
OFFICE.

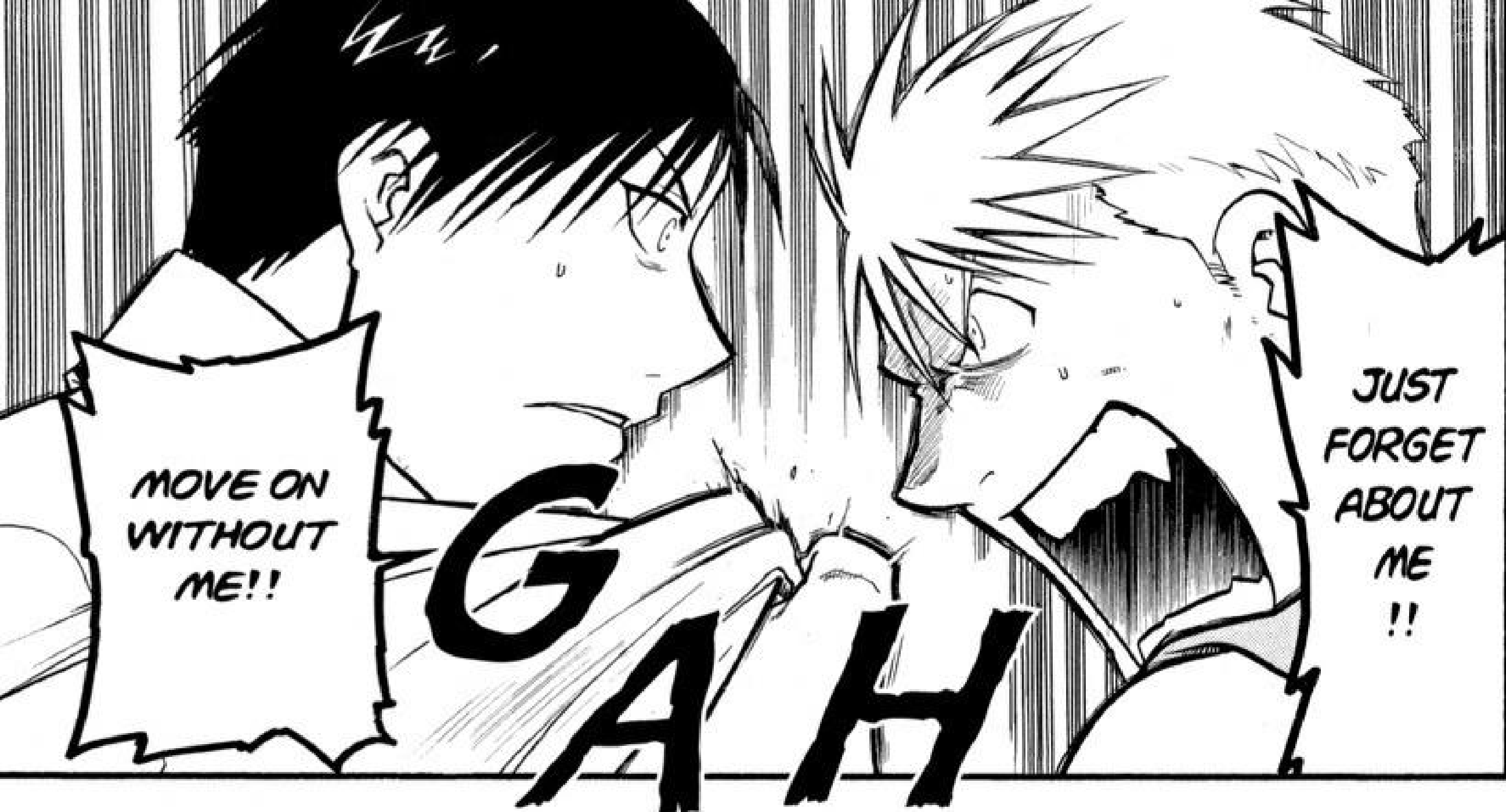
?



THEY'VE
DECIDED
TO HAVE ME
DISCHARGED
BECAUSE OF
THE INJURY I
RECEIVED AT
THE PRISON
INCIDENT.

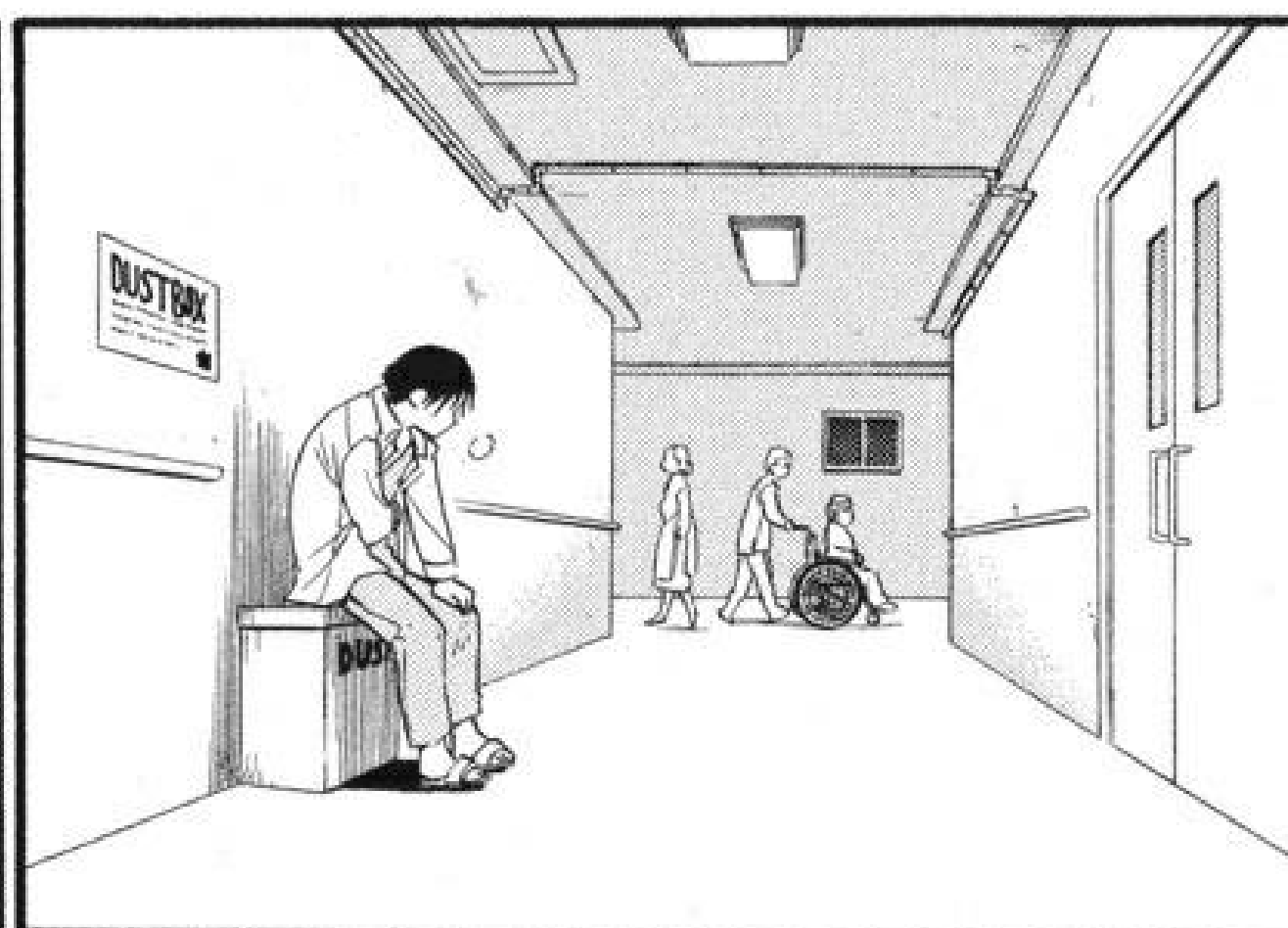
DIS-

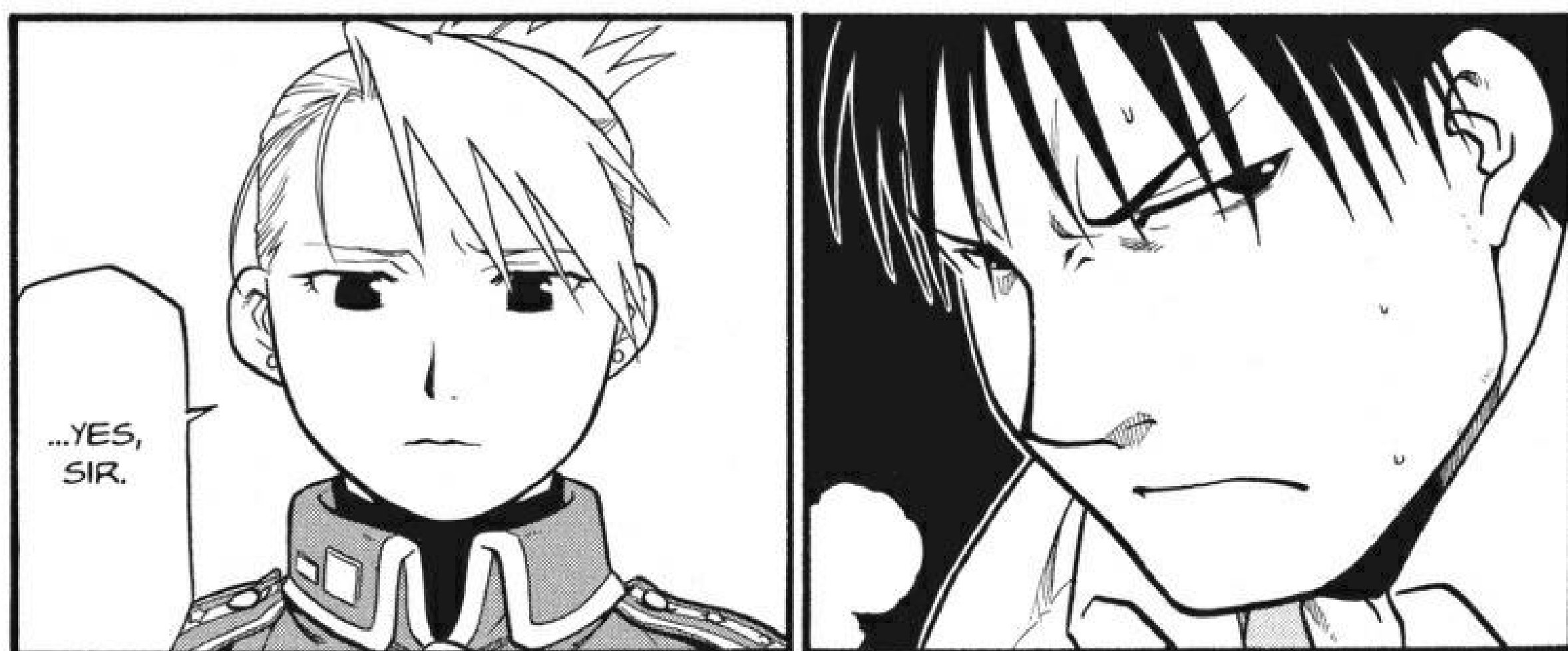


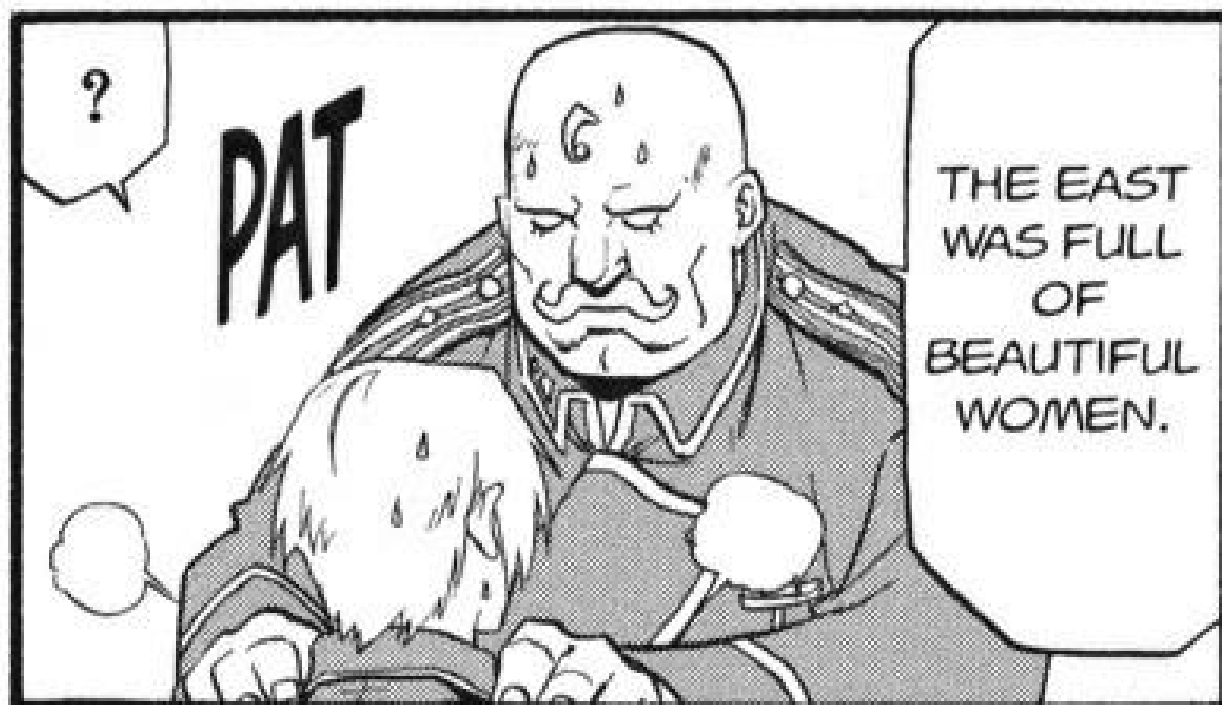












THE EAST
WAS FULL
OF
BEAUTIFUL
WOMEN.



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AT
ONCE!

IT
CONCERNS
ALL HIGH-
RANKING
ALCHE-
MISTS.

